

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, November, 1799. 83

£. 10,296 1 0; the residue of the installed debt consists principally of a loan of £. 75,000 to the commissioners of the federal city, and bonds, with security, to the amount of £. 10,590 1 11, taken in virtue of an act of the last session, authorising a purchase and sale of the Choptank Indian lands in Dorchester county. Another part of the installed debt arises on composition money for vacant lands in Allegany county, which is secured to the state by the bonds of the parties proclaiming or taking up the land, with good and ample security, payable in the manner prescribed by law. The committee find, that the whole of the uninstalled debt, and the following items of the installed debt, exhibited by the agent in his annual report to the legislature, to wit:

On account of the emissions of 1769 and 1773,	728	0	2	
Interest due thereon,	80	0	0	
	808			0 2
On account of specifics,	19	1	11	
Interest due thereon,	4	15	0	
	23			16 11
On account of balances due on the auditor's books,	170	2	9	
Interest due thereon,	20	0	0	
	190			2 9
On account of taxes,	7495	13	6	
Interest due thereon,	850	0	0	
	8345			13 6
On account of money loaned,	1545	19	0	
Interest due thereon,	370	0	0	
	1915			19 0

Amounting in the whole to £. 11283. 12 4

Have, since the agent's report of the last year, remained nearly in the same state; not much diminished by any collections that have been made; but in fact some of the items have increased, in consequence of the annual accumulation of interest, and the inconsiderable collections which have been hitherto made; whilst the committee believe that no neglect or inattention to the duties of the office can be imputed to the agent from this circumstance, they think an inference may fairly be drawn, that a source of revenue, so uncertain and precarious, cannot demand the expense or superintendence of such an officer. The committee state, that the installed debt due and secured to the state, as mentioned above, is all liquidated and bonded for, and as the collection of it involves no difficulty, and requires no greater attention or care than what is necessary in the regular course of legal proceedings, they think it would not suffer any material defalcation from the discontinuance of the officer.

The contingent annual revenue of the state arising from fines, forfeitures, marriage licences, &c. from the nature and manner of its collection, was never, in the opinion of your committee, the inducement of the legislature in appointing an agent; this has been placed, with other debts and branches of revenue, under the control of the agent generally, with a small per centum on its collection, but the obvious reasons which moved originally to this appointment, must have been the sales of confiscated property, the debts due from the citizens in consequence of such sales, and the numerous balances due on open accounts, which have been since, by the exertions and industry of the several agents, nearly closed; besides, this fund being annual and permanent, the idea of an agent to superintend its collection leads to a permanent establishment of such an officer, which the committee are of opinion is not necessary, and that it would be more eligible to vest competent powers in the treasurer, or some other department of the government which the wisdom of the house may suggest. The committee submit the foregoing statement and observations to the consideration of the house, which they hope are correct, and will be found sufficient to enable the house to judge on the order of reference under which the committee have acted. The subject is difficult and extensive, but from all the attention and consideration which the committee have been able to bestow, and from the best and only practicable sources of information within their power, they are of opinion that the present situation of the revenue of the state does not require the appointment of an agent; which is respectfully submitted to the house.

By order,

J. F. HARRIS, clk.

Which was read.

ORDERED, That the same have a second reading on Monday next.

Mr. Key, from the committee, delivers to the speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Gabriel Duvall, and others, report, that they have taken the same into their consideration, and are of opinion the same is just, and ought to be granted, and beg leave to report the following resolution to the consideration of the house of delegates.

Whereas it appears to this general assembly, by a certificate from the treasurer of the western shore, that there was due to William Hindman, Gabriel Duvall, and the representatives of William Perry, late of Talbot county, deceased, on the twenty-third of March, seventeen hundred and ninety-nine, the sum of three hundred and one pounds ten shillings and three-pence, being an over payment made by them for confiscated property purchased of the state, arising from a deficiency of one hundred and forty-three acres in the land purchased, as appears by the certificate of survey returned by John Brown Hackett, appointed to make the survey; **RESOLVED,** That the

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