

That an additional sum of two millions of dollars be borrowed at the loan-office, on certificates of two hundred dollars each.

That the commissioners of the loan-office be directed to receive the bills of credit, heretofore emitted by the states in which they respectively hold their offices, for such sums as they shall be ordered by the continental treasurer from time to time, to pay for continental purposes within such states respectively.

By order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, president.

In CONGRESS, Feb. 24, 1777.

Resolved, That the several states be requested to take the most effectual steps for immediately collecting, from the inhabitants not in actual service, all continental arms, and give notice of the number they shall collect to general Washington.

That all arms or accoutrements belonging to the United States shall be stamped or marked with the words UNITED STATES; all arms already made, to be stamped on such parts as will receive the impression, and those hereafter to be manufactured, to be stamped with the said words on every part composing the stand; and all arms and accoutrements so stamped or marked, shall be taken, wherever found, for the use of the states, except they shall be in the hands of those actually in continental service.

That it be recommended to the legislatures of the several United States to enact proper laws for the punishment of those who shall unlawfully take, secret, refuse, or neglect to deliver any continental arms or accoutrements, which they may have in their possession.

February 25th.

Resolved, That the several states be requested and empowered to borrow, or purchase, in behalf of the continent, from the militia within the said states respectively, as many good and sufficient arms as can possibly be procured.

February 26th.

Resolved, That the interest on the prizes drawn in the continental lottery, shall remain at four per cent.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the legislatures of the several states not to offer or give more than at the rate of six per cent per annum, upon any monies to be borrowed in their respective loan offices.

February 27.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several legislatures of the United States, immediately to pass laws the most effectual for putting an immediate stop to the pernicious practice of distilling grain, by which the most extensive evils are likely to be derived, if not quickly prevented.

By order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, president.

In CONGRESS, April 1, 1777.

Resolved, That the better regulating the PAY of the ARMY, That the paymaster or deputy paymaster general shall pay no money but by warrants from the commanders in chief, in their respective departments, countersigned by their respective secretaries, and that the money be paid only to the person specified in the warrant, or to his order in writing, excepting in cases otherwise provided by congress.

That the regimental abstracts be made up by the regimental paymasters, at the close of every month, and certified by the respective colonels or commanding officers and brigadiers general, who shall carefully examine and compare the same with the weekly returns, after which they shall be lodged with the paymaster or deputy paymaster general, until orders are given for the payment.

That the regimental paymasters only shall receive from the paymaster or deputy paymaster general the money due, upon abstracts, to the officers and soldiers; and the said regimental paymasters alone shall settle with, and pay the money due to the officers and soldiers of the regiments to which they respectively belong, either in person or to their order, and take receipts for the same, to be produced as vouchers on the settlement of their respective accounts. That officers and soldiers, who may be prisoners of war, shall be made up in the abstracts of the regiment to which they belong, to the time of their captivity, and authentic returns shall be made, with such abstracts of the names of the officers and soldiers aforesaid, their rank, and the company to which they belong, the time of their captivity, and the pay that was then due. And whenever such prisoners are to be exchanged, a pay roll shall be made out by the paymaster, or deputy paymaster general, for the pay due to them, to the time of their return, and the money shall be sent to them, and paid by the officer appointed to receive them, and their receipts immediately lodged with the paymaster or deputy paymaster general.

That whenever any regimental paymaster leaves the service, or is dismissed, he shall make a return to the paymaster or deputy paymaster general of the names of the commissioned, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of his regiment, who remain unpaid, the sum due to them respectively, and what balance of cash he has remaining, all which shall be lodged with the paymaster, or deputy paymaster general, to be by him delivered to the next paymaster of the said regiment, or otherwise disposed of as the commander in chief in the department may think proper.

That no commissioned, or non-commissioned officer or soldier, coming from any department where a paymaster or deputy paymaster general is appointed, shall receive in any other department the pay that may be due to him, unless he produce a certificate from his colonel or commanding officer, countersigned by the paymaster or deputy paymaster general, of the department to which he belongs, of the sum bona fide due to him, and deliver the same with a receipt thereon.

Resolved, That no officer, already appointed, or to be hereafter appointed in the army of the United States, shall take rank by virtue of a commission antedated, but rank shall be determined by the time of appointment, unless otherwise directed by special resolution of Congress.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the legislatures, and, in their recess, to the executive power of the respective states, that they forthwith transmit to the board of war, exact lists of all officers appointed by them in the continental army, with the dates of their commissions, and times of appointment.

April 2.

Resolved, That the paymaster and deputy paymaster general, at the end of every month after the first of May

next, shall make up rolls containing the names of the general and other officers of the army to which they respectively belong, who are not comprised in the regimental abstracts, excepting only the commanders in chief of the several departments, who shall respectively examine such rolls, and issue their warrants on the paymaster or deputy paymaster general for the sums due on the same.

That the commanders in chief of the several departments be directed to order payment to such officers and detachments of the army as shall at any time be ordered to other departments, to be made to the day of their marching or leaving the camp, and that certificates be given by the respective paymaster or deputy paymaster general, mentioning the names of such officers and corps, together with the time to which they are paid, which certificates shall be delivered by the commanding officers of the respective detachments (or by such officers as shall be ordered without detachments) to the paymaster or deputy paymaster general of the department to which they are ordered, to enable him to examine and make up their future rolls and abstracts.

Extraid from the minutes,

Published by order of Congress,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

In CONGRESS, February 25, 1777.

TO the end that the most speedy stop may be put to the pernicious and unfoldierly practice of deserting, and that such offenders who receive the public money for services that they design not to perform, may be certainly and speedily carried back to the corps they have deserted from, it is earnestly recommended to the committees of observation or inspection in these United States, that they cause diligent enquiry to be made in their respective counties or districts, for all deserters that may be lurking and harboured therein, and cause such, whenever found, to be immediately secured and conveyed to the nearest continental officer, and all such officers are hereby directed to receive and secure such deserters, that they may be safely delivered to their respective regiments, and brought to a speedy trial and exemplary punishment; and farther to pay to the persons delivering such deserters, eight dollars for each deserter so brought and delivered, and twelve ninetieths of a dollar, in lieu of expences, for every mile from the place where the deserter was taken up, to the place where he is delivered to the officer.

ARTICLES OF WAR. SECTION VI.

Art. 1. All officers and soldiers, who having received pay, or having been duly enlisted in the service of the United States, shall be convicted of having deserted the same, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as by a court-martial shall be inflicted.

Art. 2. Any non-commissioned officer or soldier, who shall, without leave from his commanding officer, absent himself from his troop or company, or from any detachment with which he shall be commanded, shall, upon being convicted thereof, be punished according to the nature of his offence, at the discretion of a court-martial.

Art. 3. No non-commissioned officer or soldier shall enlist himself in any other regiment, troop, or company, without a regular discharge from the regiment, troop or company, in which he last served, on the penalty of being reputed a deserter, and suffering accordingly: And in case any officer shall knowingly receive and entertain such non-commissioned officer or soldier, or shall not, after his being discovered to be a deserter, immediately confine him, and give notice thereof to the corps in which he last served, he, the said officer so offending, shall by a court-martial be cashiered.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolve, and the three articles of war, be published in the several newspapers for six months, and the several printers are hereby requested to publish them accordingly.

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

ANNAPOLIS, APRIL 17.

An ACT for QUARTERING SOLDIERS.

WHEREAS it is established by the Declaration of Rights, that no soldier ought to be quartered in any house in time of peace, without the consent of the owner, and in time of war in such manner only as the legislature shall direct; and whereas it is necessary, during the present war with Great-Britain, to provide proper and convenient quarters in several parts of this state, for the troops of this and the United States, or any of them:

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall and may be lawful for such person or persons, as the governor of this state for the time being shall appoint, to provide quarters in any city, town, or place, (on convenient notice, by the commanding officer of any regiment, detachment, troop, or company, in the service of this United States, or any of them, of the number and the time such officer shall require to be quartered in such city, town, or place) to hire fit and convenient houses, for the reception of such forces, and their baggage, and sick and wounded; and if sufficient houses cannot be procured on hire, at a reasonable price, it shall be lawful for such person or persons, appointed as aforesaid, to enter and quarter the residue of the officers, soldiers, or troopers, in any empty or unoccupied house or houses, in such city, town, or place; and if sufficient quarters cannot thus be obtained, it shall be lawful for such person or persons, appointed as aforesaid, to quarter and billet the remaining officers, soldiers, or troopers, in the taverns or public houses in such city, town, or place, in proportion to their number, and their ability and convenience; and in case further quarters shall still be wanting, it shall be lawful for such person or persons, appointed as aforesaid, to enter, quarter, and billet, the remaining officers, soldiers, or troopers, in the house or houses of any person or persons, in such city, town, or place, who shall not have subscribed the allocation at the time of such billeting, or who shall hereafter be adjudged enemies or disaffected persons by any legal authority of this state, in proportion to their number, ability, and convenience; and if any officers, soldiers, or troopers, should still remain unprovided for, it shall and may be lawful for such person or persons, appointed as aforesaid, to enter, quarter, and billet, such officers, soldiers, and troopers, in the houses of the other inhabitants of such city, town, or place, in proportion to their number, ability, and convenience.

And be it enacted, That if any house shall be hired as aforesaid, the person or persons, appointed as aforesaid, shall give a certificate for the rent to the owner and his

assigns; and where any empty or unoccupied house shall be taken as aforesaid, a certificate shall also be given to the owner and his assigns for the sum due for the billeting of some disinterested person on oath, and the said certificates shall be paid by either of the treasurers of troops belonging to any other state, or to the United States, the same shall be charged to such state, or the United States, as the case may be.

And be it enacted, That if the governor shall not appoint any person in any city, town, or place, as aforesaid, or such person shall refuse or neglect to comply with the directions of this act, it shall and may be lawful for any justice of the peace in or near thereto, if required by any officer as aforesaid, to provide quarters for his troops in the same manner as above is directed.

And, to prevent as far as possible any damage to any house and premises rented or taken as aforesaid, Be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, if required by the owner thereof, to enter into such house, and if on examination he shall find any injury committed, he shall cause strict enquiry to be made of the person who committed the same, and shall direct the damage to be valued by some disinterested person on oath, and if done by any non-commissioned officer or soldier, he shall give notice of the damage done, and (if discovered) the name of the offender to the commanding officer, in such city, town, or place; and if done by or with the permission or connivance of any commissioned officer, he shall give notice thereof to the commander in chief, and to the officer commanding in such city, town, or place.

And be it enacted, That where any officer, soldier, or trooper, shall be quartered and billeted in any tavern or private house, agreeable to this act, and shall not be furnished with the ration or rations allowed to such officer or soldier, the owner shall furnish such officer or soldier with the ration or rations, and the articles therein expressed, or such of them as he can procure, or with other good and substantial victuals in lieu thereof, and he shall be allowed therefor at the rate of ten shillings, common money, per week, for each non-commissioned officer and soldier, and at the rate of twenty-two shillings and sixpence, common money, per week, for each commissioned officer, and shall be paid by the officer commanding the regiment, detachment, troop or company; and in case such officer shall not have money to satisfy such demand, he shall give a certificate to such person and his assigns expressing the sum due, which certificate shall be paid by either of the treasurers of this state; and if such expence shall be incurred for the troops of any other state, or of the United States, the same shall be charged to such state, or the United States, as the case may be.

And be it enacted, That where any troop or company of light horse shall be quartered and billeted in pursuance of this act, each trooper and his horse shall be billeted in the same house, if possible, nor shall there be less than one trooper billeted with one or two horses, nor less than two men with four horses, and so in proportion for a greater number, and in such case each trooper shall be billeted as near his horse as possible; and where food and storage shall not be provided, the same shall be found by the person on whom such trooper shall be billeted, and he shall be allowed a reasonable price therefor, to be ascertained either by agreement with the commanding officer, or by any justice of the peace, and paid or certificate given as aforesaid.

And be it enacted, That if any person by this act authorized to quarter soldiers, shall at any time quarter any of the wives, children or servants of any officer or soldier, in any house, against the consent of the owner, or shall neglect or refuse, for the space of two hours, to quarter or billet such officers or soldiers when thereto required, and having sufficient notice before the arrival of such troops, or shall receive, demand, contract, or agree for, any money, or any reward, to excuse any person from quartering or receiving into his house any officer, soldier or trooper, and if any person liable by this act to have any officer, soldier, or trooper quartered on him, shall refuse to receive or furnish such officer, soldier or trooper as aforesaid, such person so offending shall forfeit and pay, for every offence, not more than five pounds, nor less than forty shillings, to be recovered before any justice of the peace, and levied by warrant to any constable on the offenders persons, goods or chattels, one half to the informer, and the other half to the use of the county where the offence shall be committed, and where no informer, the whole to such county.

In the HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

April 11, 1777.

THE house took into consideration the memorial of William Goddard, the reports of the committee of grievances thereon, and the depositions referred to by the committee, and thereupon

RESOLVED unanimously, That every subject in this state is entitled to the benefit and protection of the laws and government thereof.

RESOLVED, That this house highly disapprove of any body of men assuming or exercising any of the powers of government, without proper authority from the constitution.

RESOLVED, That the proceedings of the persons in Baltimore-Town, associated and styled the Whig Club, are a most daring infringement and manifest violation of the constitution of this state, directly contrary to the Declaration of Rights, and tend in their consequences (unless timely checked) to the destruction of all regular government.

RESOLVED unanimously, That the governor be requested to issue his proclamation, declaring all bodies of men, associating together or meeting for the purpose, and usurping any of the powers of government, and presuming to exercise any power over the persons or property of any subject of this state, or to carry into execution any of the laws thereof, unlawful assemblies, and requiring all such assemblies and meetings instantly to disperse.

RESOLVED, That the governor be requested to afford the said William Goddard, the protection of the law of the land, and to direct the justices of Baltimore county to give him every protection in their power against all violence or injury to his person or property.

RESOLVED, That Mr. Speaker be requested to communicate the above resolves, and copies of the memorials and depositions, to the governor.

ORDERED, That the above resolves be published in the Maryland Gazette.

By order,

G. DUVALL, C. H. D.