

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1798.

In COUNCIL, Annapolis, January 23, 1798.

ORDERED, That the act to appoint an agent for the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, be published in the Maryland Gazette, at Annapolis, the Federal Gazette, at Baltimore, the Herald, at Falton, and in one of the George-town and Frederick-town papers, once in each week for the term of eight weeks.

By order,

NINIAN PINKNEY, Clerk of the Council of the State of Maryland.

An ACT to appoint an agent for the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight.

BE it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That William Marbury be agent of this State, to execute the trust and power reposed in him by virtue of this act, from the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, until the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine.

II. And be it enacted, That the said agent superintend the collection of all arrearages and balances due from the several collectors of the respective counties within this State, appointed since the first day of January, seventeen hundred and eighty-three; and the said agent is hereby authorized and required to call upon the treasurers of the respective shires for an accurate statement of all arrearages and balances due from such collectors, and such accounts shall be furnished by the said treasurers accordingly.

III. And be it enacted, That the said agent be authorized to superintend the collection of balances due to the State on the auditor's books, or on open account; and the said agent shall have power to require payment of, and, if necessary, to sue for and recover the same; and the said agent, with the approbation of the governor and council, may make composition with any such debtors, and take bonds to the State, with sufficient security, and give time for payment, not exceeding two years from the first day of January, seventeen hundred and ninety-eight.

IV. And be it enacted, That the said agent be authorized to superintend the collection of all moneys due to the State for naval duties, fines, penalties, forfeitures and amerciaments, and forfeited recognizances, and for ordinary, retailers and marriage licences, and to require payment, and, if necessary, sue for and recover the same; and the said agent may allow for insolvencies, and credit any money that the party is not chargeable with by law, and for his information of the law, he may take the advice of the attorney-general in writing.

V. And be it enacted, That whenever there shall be occasion to expose to public sale the property of any collector, or his securities, by virtue of any execution already issued, or to be issued for this purpose, the said agent shall cause at least thirty days public notice to be given of such sale, and shall attend the same, and if it shall appear that there is danger of losing any part of the debt due to the State, and not other, shall purchase any property so exposed to sale for the use of the State, in payment, or part payment, as the case may be, of the arrearages due by the collectors whose property may be so purchased, and that no purchase authorized by this act shall be considered as made on the part of the State, unless a public declaration to that effect be made by the agent, or his deputy, immediately after such sale and purchase, and any property so purchased for the use of the State, the said agent may again expose to public auction on the most advantageous terms, for the use of the State, and if the same be sold on credit, which shall in no case exceed the term of two years, the said agent shall take bonds, with good and sufficient security, to be approved of by the treasurer of the western shire, from the purchasers of such property, and all bonds by him so taken shall be deposited, with an accurate list thereof subscribed by him, in the treasury of the western shire, and shall be a lien upon the real property of such purchasers, and their securities, from the respective dates, or so much thereof as is mentioned in the schedule thereto annexed.

VI. And be it enacted, That the said agent is hereby directed to dispose of all confiscated British property that remains unsold, and take bonds to the State, with sufficient security, and give time for the payment thereof, not exceeding two years from the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight; and that where the quantity of land in any one body subject to such sale exceeds the quantity of fifty acres, such land shall be disposed of at public sale, on the time and place of which sale at least thirty days previous notice shall be given by public advertisement; and that at the time of any sale by virtue of this act, the said agent shall make known that he only sells the right of this State thereto, and that the State doth not guaranty the title to the same; or any part thereof, but that the purchase must be in all respects at the risk of the purchaser.

VII. And be it enacted, That no payment in future by any officer or person indebted to the State shall be valid and effectual, unless made to the treasurers of the western or eastern shire, or to the agent for the time being, or unless made to the clerks and sheriffs of the several counties, in the cases where the said clerks and sheriffs are by law authorized to receive the same.

VIII. And be it enacted, That the agent shall have full power and authority, by and with the advice of the governor and council, in all cases of unsatisfied debts, to take back any property heretofore purchased by any person, and not yet paid for; in cases where the person so having purchased, and his securities, are not capable of paying for the same, and to compromise the same upon terms and principles of equity and justice, by and

with the advice and consent aforesaid; and the agent is hereby required to lay a particular statement of his proceedings under this section before the next session of assembly.

IX. And be it enacted, That the agent, with the approbation and consent of the governor and council, be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to compromise any suit depending in chancery with any state debtor, upon any terms in their judgment calculated to promote the interest of the State, and to obtain the speedy receipt of the sums due.

X. And be it enacted, That if, under the terms of any compromise made as aforesaid, the property heretofore purchased should be taken back and re-vested in the State, the same may be sold by the agent, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to sell the same at public sale, giving thirty days notice, on a credit of two years, payable one half of the principal, and the whole interest, annually, on the first day of December in each year, and the bonds, when taken, shall be returned to the treasury of the western shire, and reported to the general assembly at their session next ensuing the taking of such bonds.

XI. And be it enacted, That all cases in chancery, where no compromise under this act is effected, shall be placed under the direction of the agent, who is hereby authorized and required to call on the attorney-general to prosecute or defend the same to immediate final decision; and the governor and council are hereby authorized and empowered, at the request of the agent, in cases of difficulty, to aid the attorney-general, by employing any person to attend to surveys where necessary, or otherwise to assist in the prosecution or defence of said suits, which person or persons are to be paid out of the contingent fund of five hundred pounds; and the names of the persons so employed, together with the sum allowed for their services, to be laid before the general assembly at their next session.

XII. And be it enacted, That if any bond debtor to the State for confiscated property purchased, or otherwise, shall neglect to make payment agreeably to the condition of his bond, and sundry resolves of the general assembly, the said agent shall cause process to issue for the whole principal and interest then due, or shall proceed on any execution already issued, and served and suspended, as occasion may require, or, under the direction and with the approbation of the governor and council, he is hereby authorized to delay any execution as long as they may think expedient and necessary.

XIII. And be it enacted, That the said agent be authorized to superintend the collection of all balances due on bond taken for taxes due before the first day of January, seventeen hundred and eighty-three; and the said agent shall also superintend the collection of all balances due on bonds installed, or otherwise, for the emissions of paper money of seventeen hundred and sixty-nine, and seventeen hundred and seventy-three.

XIV. And be it enacted, That no process shall issue against any of the public debtors, unless by the direction of the said agent.

XV. And be it enacted, That the said agent shall have power to fix such days of sale of property taken by fieri facias, at the suit of the State, as he may think proper, always taking care to give at least twenty days public notice thereof; and the said agent shall also have power to suspend the sales, from time to time, as he may think most to the advantage of the State.

XVI. And be it enacted, That the said agent shall pay into the treasury, in specie, the amount of all specie by him received in the discharge of the duties of this act.

XVII. And be it enacted, That in all cases where bonds shall be taken in virtue of this act, the bonds shall be a lien on all the real property of the obligors from the date thereof, or on so much of the said real property as the governor and council shall think sufficient, to be particularly mentioned in a schedule to be annexed to the said bond, in which case it shall be a lien on the property contained in such schedule, and no more, such bond and schedule to be lodged with the treasurer of the western shire.

XVIII. And be it enacted, That all bonds taken in virtue of this act shall express the county in which the obligors respectively reside, and the treasurer of the western shire shall, within one month after he receives them respectively, cause them, with the schedule annexed to them, to be recorded in the office of the clerk of the general court of the western shire, at the expense of the obligors; and a copy of the said record, certified under the hand and official seal of the said clerk, shall be as good evidence in any court of law or equity in this State as the original bond would be if it was produced; and if any of the obligors in any such bonds reside on the eastern shore, the said treasurer shall, within six months from the time he receives the same respectively, transmit to the clerk of the general court of the eastern shore, in the same manner as papers on public service are transmitted, a copy of such bonds and schedules, certified as aforesaid by the clerk of the general court of the western shire, to be recorded in the office of the clerk of the general court of the eastern shore, at the expense of the obligors; and in such case a copy of the said record, certified as aforesaid by the clerk of the general court of the eastern shore, shall be good evidence as aforesaid.

XIX. And be it enacted, That the said agent shall render to the treasurer of the western shire distinct quarterly accounts of his receipts, of all moneys, certificates and bonds, in virtue of this act, and shall immediately thereupon pay and deliver the same to the said treasurer, who shall, in his annual report to the general assembly, state fully and particularly the moneys, certificates and bonds, by him received from the said agent, and the times when the same were received and accounted for.

XX. And be it enacted, That the said agent shall render a fair and full account of his several proceedings under the authority of this act to the general assembly at their next session, and within the first ten days after its commencement, in which account shall be specified, under distinct heads, his own receipts, and those of the treasurer, and of all transfers of stock upon which he may be entitled to commission, and in which shall also be contained a particular estimate of his commissions, shewing how and upon what the same arose due.

XXI. And be it enacted, That the said agent shall be allowed for his services the following commissions, to wit: for all payments actually made to either of the treasurers in virtue of this act, three per cent. and for all bonds with security taken by the said agent in virtue of this act, three per cent. provided that the whole amount of his commission shall not exceed five hundred pounds current money, and he shall lay an account of the same, on oath, before the next session of assembly.

XXII. And be it enacted, That hereafter it shall be the duty of the agent, and the treasurers of the western and eastern shires respectively, to receive, as well the fifteen per cent. interest, if any shall have accrued, as all other the arrearages that are now, or may hereafter become due from fines, forfeitures and amerciaments, ordinary, retailers, marriage, hawkers and pedlers licences, and which fifteen per cent. so collected, shall be the only fund out of which the agent shall draw his commission of three per cent. for collecting the same; provided that the said agent shall not be entitled to any commission upon the moneys arising from fines, forfeitures, amerciaments, ordinary, retailers, marriage, hawkers and pedlers licences, unless in cases where the same shall not be paid by the sheriffs and clerks respectively, to the treasurer within one month after the time prescribed by law, and unless the said agent shall thereafter receive the same from the said officers respectively, and the same pay to the said treasurer.

XXIII. And be it enacted, That the said agent, before he enters upon the execution of the duties of this act, shall give bond to the State, before the governor and council, in the penalty of sixty thousand dollars, with such security as the governor and council shall approve, for the faithful performance of the said duties, which bond shall be lodged with the treasurer of the western shire, and shall also take an oath before the chancellor, that he will well and faithfully discharge the duties as agent under the act, entitled, An act to appoint an agent for the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, to the best of his skill and judgment, the certificate of which oath shall be annexed to, or endorsed on, the said bond.

XXIV. And be it enacted, That if the said agent shall not accept his appointment, or if after his acceptance he shall not give bond, and take the oath aforesaid, before the first day of February next, or shall die, the governor and council are hereby authorized and required to appoint a fit and proper person in his place, who shall have and execute all the authorities and powers vested in the said William Marbury by this act, such person first giving security, and taking the oath aforesaid.

NOTICE TO STATE DEBTORS.

PROCESS will certainly be directed against all delinquent state debtors who fail to make their payments by the 15th day of March next.

WILLIAM MARBURY, Agent.

LONDON, November 20.

ON a motion of Mr. Ryder for the house of commons to resolve itself into a committee of the whole house, on the treaty between his Britannic majesty and the United States of America, Mr. Nicholls remarked to his majesty's ministers, that the bill proposed to be brought in did not go to the extent required both by the commercial and political interests of this country. He said that all regulations of the intercourse between the United States of America and the British islands in the West-Indies, was entirely left out in the proposed bill. This intercourse was left as it had been ever since the peace with America, to be regulated on the spur of the occasion, by orders of council, or the proclamations of governors in the West-Indies: as a proof of this, he took notice of a proclamation lately issued by the governor of Barbadoes, stating the danger to which that island was exposed from the scarcity of provisions, and authorizing for a twelve-month, the introduction of provisions and lumber into that island, in American ships of any burthen. He observed, that while we persevered in holding this language to the Americans, viz. "We will purchase from you when we cannot procure the commodities we want elsewhere; but, when we can procure them elsewhere, we will not purchase them of you." We should never be considered by the Americans as valuable customers; nor would they be solicitous to supply us in the hour of distress. He reminded the house that when the present calamitous war terminated, another contest awaited this country, viz. a contest whether this country should retain its station as a commercial nation. In this contest, our intercourse with America was of the first importance. The success of France, during the present war, would probably give her great advantages in commerce, on the return of peace; we might expect to see her the most favoured nation in Holland, in Germany, in Spain, in Italy, in all the states which border on the Mediterranean; and perhaps even in Por-