

best information your committee can obtain, that considerable revenue may be calculated on but at the same time, it would be unwise at present to trust to them; because an annual permanent revenue, sufficient to defray the expences of government, ought to be provided, without trusting to any doubtful scheme, and if hereafter we can dispense with any part of the revenue, it will be an easy matter to repeal such of the taxes as are most odious and oppressive.

The lottery system is one of very doubtful character, and no certain or fixed revenue can be calculated on from it. Could your committee suppress lotteries altogether, they would certainly do so, but this is deemed impracticable, and as a majority of them believe, the state may derive a revenue from that source, they recommend a continuation of the existing laws on the subject.

Agreeably to the report of the treasurer, there will be a deficit of 18,928 89 1-2 cents in the revenue of the present year, which your committee fondly hope and believe, will be supplied by the sources already enumerated, and the outstanding debts due to the state. The treasurer reports the sum of \$21,631 remaining in the treasury, subject to the payment of the pension-list, most of which it is more than probable will not be called for, as it is supposed the claimants are generally dead!!!

Your committee would therefore recommend that the above sum, or a part thereof be applied to the payment of the debt due to the Farmers Bank of Maryland, or be invested in some profitable stock, as the wisdom of legislature may deem best, and in the event of the pensioners demanding their claims, the treasurer could negotiate a temporary loan, till the next meeting of the legislature, provided the ordinary revenue should not enable him to comply with the demands.

The mode of disbursing public money heretofore has been loose and irregular, as a recurrence to the resolutions and acts appropriating money will clearly show. So much has this been the case, that no person without great trouble, labor and difficulty, could ascertain to whom and for what purposes a large portion of the annual expenses was paid.

Your committee would therefore recommend that the treasurer should not be authorized to pay money for any purpose whatsoever, unless the same was appropriated by an act of the legislature; and that hereafter it shall be the duty of the committee of ways and means to report an appropriation bill or bills for all money expended by the state. They would also recommend a prompt and summary mode to enforce the collection of debts due the state, for it is frequently found to be a difficult matter to obtain the money from persons entrusted with the collection of the revenue, in such cases no indulgence should be granted, unless under circumstances of peculiar hardship, because the state is already seriously injured by trusting to unfaithful officers, and by vesting such powers in the treasurer, the revenue might be promptly collected, and much loss prevented.

There are other subjects relating to the finances of the state, concerning which the committee have not yet been able to obtain such information as they desired, that will be attended to hereafter. All which is respectfully submitted.

By order,

TRUEMAN CROSS, Clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Elijah Barrick reports a bill entitled, an act directing priority of payment of the debts of persons dying within this state; so far as the same relates to the state of Delaware.

The house adjourns until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

THURSDAY, January 8, 1824.

The house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The bill to regulate the payment of justices of the levy court, commissioners of the tax and jurors, to the county court, so far as the same relates to Caroline county; and the bill to authorise the levy court of Washington county to levy a sum of money for the erection of a bridge over the Antietum at Zigler's Ford, were read the second time, passed and sent to the senate.

On the second reading of the resolution relative to the sale of arms and camp equipage, Mr. Kemp moved the following as a substitute:—Resolved, that the Governor and Council be, and they are hereby authorised and empowered to sell and dispose of all (or any of) the tents and other camp equipage now in the several armories of this state, which they in their discretion may deem consistent with the public interest, which was assented to and sent to the senate.

The speaker laid before the house the report of the commissioners appointed to examine the divisional line between Calvert and Anne Arundel counties.

On motion by Mr. Howard the same was referred to Messrs. Kilgour, McHenry, Kemp, Chesley, Howard, Dalrymple and C. R. Stewart.

On motion by Mr. Bryan, leave given to bring in a bill entitled, an act to alter all such parts of the constitution relating to a poll tax in such manner as to impose a tax on Batchelors in this state; ordered, that Messrs. Bryan, Carroll, Pitt, Millard and Merrick, report the same.

Mr. J. T. H. Worthington presents a petition from sundry inhabitants of Baltimore county, praying for a division of the donation to the Academies in said county; referred to Messrs. J. T. H. Worthington, Johnson and Ely.

Mr. W. G. D. Worthington presents a memorial from Solomon Etting, Levy Solomon and J. I. Cohen, Jr. on behalf of the Israelites of Maryland; which was read.

Mr. Sprigg reports a bill entitled, an act to reduce the price of the state's lands in Allegany county.