uncertain on what terms he could purchase the same; that if he could buy them he would furnish the province with any quantity within his power at a reasonable price, on their paying him for the same; and that the original sum borrowed would be absolutely necessary for him to carry on the manufactory aforesaid entire, during the time aforesaid.

Your committee further beg leave to report, that Edward Parker, of Cecil county, by his petition hath set forth, that he hath erected a house, provided himself with all manner of implements necessary for carrying on a linen and woollen manufactory, and had also engaged a number of weavers, but found it absolutely impossible to carry on the same with spirit, and in an extensive manner, without a considerable sum of ready cash, and therefore prayed, that the sum of three hundred pounds, out of the public treasury, might be advanced to him, upon his giving bond with undoubted security, for the delivery of the value of two hundred pounds in good strong merchantable linen cloth, manufactured in this province, on or before the first day of May next, and the value of one hundred pounds in good merchantable linen or woollen cloth, manufactured in this province, on the first day of November next, of such quality as he may be directed, and at such prices and rates as this or a future Convention, on his producing the same, may be pleased to allow. The said Edward Parker in person acquainted your committee, that he kept five looms constantly employed in manufacturing. Your committee beg leave to report thereon their opinion, that the establishment of linen and woollen manufactories is of the greatest importance to this province, as not only a number of poor people may be employed, fed, and cloathed thereby, but necessary cloth for the use of the province be manufactured therein, and that for the above purposes, and other valuable ones, a manufactory for making the above clothes should be established in every county in this province; that the sum of five thousand pounds be appropriated and set apart for the above purpose, to be distributed in manner and form following, to wit. five hundred pounds for Frederick county, and three hundred pounds to each of the other counties, which sum, in the opinion of your committee, will employ eighty looms, and the produce thereof amount to from eighty to one thousand yards of cloth at a moderate calculation, suitable for tents, hunting and soldiers shirts, and supplying the necessitous poor; that three gentlemen in whom confidence may be placed, be appointed in each county, and stiled Contractors, and that they or any two of them be empowered to draw the several sums abovementioned out of the treasuries, as occasion may require, agree with such persons as will undertake to carry on the work, receive the linen and woollen, and take bond with sufficient security in double the sum lent, payable to conditioned for the return of the value of the money lent, in good coarse linen or woollen cloth, in the following manner, to wit. one third thereof by the first of May next, one other third by the first of August next, and the remainder by the first of December next; and that the said contractors shall transmit the bonds so taken to the president of the Convention, should the Convention be sitting, or if in their recess to the Council of Safety for the time being; that if it should happen that undertakers could not be found, or should not apply in any one or more of the counties on or before the first day of March next, that the contractors in any other of the counties may be empowered to draw out for the purposes aforesaid, and on the above terms, the proportion or proportions allotted such county or counties as may not apply.

Your committee further beg leave to observe, that several proposals have been made to them respecting a sheeting and slitting mill to be erected in this province, but that they are not fully prepared to report on that subject.

Signed per order JOHN CALLAHAN, clk. com.

On