

P O S T M E R I D I E M.

Convention met. Mr. Fitzhugh appeared in the house. Mr. Solomon Wright appeared and took his seat in the house.

The order of the day for taking into consideration the petition against the election of delegates for Anne-Arundel county, being read, the same was withdrawn at the request of the petitioners.

Mr. Lowes has leave of absence.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, September 4, 1776.

CONVENTION met. All members present as on yesterday, except Mr. Lowes, Mr. Williams Ringgold, Mr. Earle, and Mr. Turbutt Wright. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Peter Chaille, Mr. Samuel Handy, and Mr. Josiah Mitchell, delegates returned for Worcester county, appeared and took their seats in the house.

Mr. Thomas Ringgold, from the committee appointed to enquire into the state and condition of manufactories, brings in and delivers to Mr. President the following report:

“ IN obedience to a resolve of the honourable Convention, your committee for enquiring into the state and condition of manufactories beg leave to report, That not having had time to enquire into the propriety of the particular charges made in an account lately exhibited by the commissioners of the gun-lock factory at Frederick-town, beg leave to defer their opinion thereon until they have an opportunity of making the necessary enquiries, and until proper vouchers are produced. Nevertheless, upon a general view of the account your committee are enabled to report to your honourable house, that the sum of twelve hundred pounds common money has been advanced; that one thousand and seventy-six pounds nine shillings and eight-pence has been laid out and expended, and that no more than to the amount of eighty-two pounds nineteen shillings and seven-pence has been returned in work, valued, in the opinion of your committee, at high prices, and only thirty-eight gun-locks have been produced; that from the best information the expence of continuing the factory on the public account will be very great, and under its present circumstances, no returns can be expected in any degree adequate to it. Your committee are therefore of opinion that the proposals of Elisha Winters of Chester-town, ought to be accepted on the following terms, viz.

“ That the present buildings shall be finished, and such other additional buildings erected as shall be thought necessary for the carrying on the factory, and for the accommodation of Elisha Winters's family, and the hands employed in the said factory; that some convenient works shall be erected for the grinding and boring bayonets, ramrods and files, and other materials, and the stream of water that runs near the works shall be conveyed thereto, if to be done at a moderate expence, and with the consent of the proprietors of the land who will be affected by it; that the whole amount of the ground, buildings, and other improvements, together with the value of the tools on hand, shall be ascertained, and that Elisha Winters shall pay interest thereon at the rate of six per centum from the first day of October next, by way of rent yearly; that the materials on hand shall be valued, and the amount deducted out of the work to be received of him.

“ That the said Elisha Winters shall pay by way of hire yearly for the servants that have been bought on the public account, in proportion to the cost of each respective servant, and the time he has to serve, to victual and cloath them at his own expence, to pay their levy and the necessary expence of a physician in case of sickness.

“ And your committee are of opinion, that the said ground, buildings, and other improvements, tools and servants, shall remain under rent and hire respectively on the above terms after the expiration of the first year, if the said Elisha Winters shall continue to merit the confidence of the future legislature or governing power of this state for the time being.

“ And your committee are further of opinion, that so long as the said Elisha Winters continues to be a tenant to the public, he ought to furnish monthly at least one hundred and twenty-five good substantial muskets, well fitted with bayonets, steel ramrods, and strong neat mounting, and good double bridle locks, and swivels for slings, at four pounds five shillings common money for each, and if it should be in his power to make more than that number, your committee think he ought to deliver, and the public to receive them on the same terms; and whenever he shall discontinue to rent and hire as aforesaid, your committee are of opinion, that the said Elisha Winters ought to deliver up the said buildings and improvements in good order, and tools of the same.