

and wheat bread, that may be found in the possession of individuals; more than is necessary for the support of themselves and families for the present year, who shall refuse to sell the same for the price current, the said price to be paid to the owner or possessor, on taking the said provisions out of their possession.

C H A P.  
XVII.

XX. And be it enacted, That the said provisions shall and may be taken in manner following by the said public purchasers, that is to say: It shall and may be lawful for any one justice of the peace in any county of this state, and he is hereby authorized and required, on information being made on oath to him by the said public purchasers, of any considerable quantity of the provisions above mentioned being purchased by or in the possession of any individual, who hath refused to sell the same for the price current, to issue his warrant, empowering any constable, or the informer or informers, to seize the same for the use of the continental army; and such justice of the peace shall forthwith call to his assistance two respectable freeholders or other reputable persons of the same county, not having any provisions of the same kind to sell, who, if the seizure shall be approved of by them, or a majority of them, shall retain the provisions so taken, of the species above mentioned, for the use of the continental army; and such justice shall, as soon as may be, transmit a certificate from under his hand, of the quantity and species of provisions so seized to the governor and council, who shall cause the substance of such certificate to be entered on their proceedings; and the said justice shall have full power and authority to call on the sheriff of the county, or his deputy, to aid and assist in carrying the powers conferred on such justice by this act respectively into effect, which said sheriff or deputy shall and is hereby required to aid and assist such justice accordingly.

In what manner provisions may be taken, &c.

XXI. And be it enacted, That the said justice shall and is hereby required, as soon as may be after determining the provisions aforesaid to be liable to seizure, to cause the same to be delivered to the public purchasers aforesaid, he or they paying the current price to the owner or person entitled to receive the same, on delivery; and if there shall be any diversity of opinion respecting the current price between the owner or person entitled to receive the same and the public purchasers aforesaid, the justice of peace aforesaid, together with said freeholders or reputable persons aforesaid, or any two of them, are hereby authorized and required to fix and ascertain what the current price shall be deemed to be.

Justice to cause provisions seized to be delivered to the public purchasers, &c.

XXII. And be it enacted, That all justices, sheriffs, and constables, when called upon, shall be obliged, in virtue of their office and the oath they have taken or may hereafter take, to do their duty in the premises, without favour or affection, and the said freeholders, or other reputable persons, when called upon, shall be obliged to attend, on pain of forfeiting the sum of fifty pounds each for every neglect or refusal, and shall severally take an oath, before they enter on the execution of the trust reposed in them, to conduct themselves with impartiality in determining the matters referred to their judgment and decision, which oath the said justice is hereby empowered and required to administer.

Justices, &c. to do their duty without favour or affection, &c.

XXIII. And