

F R I D A Y, March 21, 1777.

SENATE met according to adjournment. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The bill, entitled, An act to promote the recruiting service, was read a second time, and passed with the following amendments, to wit.

In the fifth line of the first page, between the words "money" and "verified," insert the following, "or two thousand pounds of tobacco." Strike out the word "and" in the third line of the second page. After the word "soldiers," in the sixth line of the same page, insert the following, "And be it enacted, That the creditors aforesaid shall not be affected by the act of limitations, from and during the time they shall be precluded, as, aforesaid, from prosecuting their claims; nor shall the delay of suing out execution during such time operate so as to prevent the suing out the same, after the discharge of such debtors from the service." In the eleventh line of the second page, strike out the words "including an allowance," and instead thereof insert the following, "and in every such case the magistrate shall deduct from the value of the said servant or apprentice the sum." In the third line from the bottom of the second page, insert the word "immediately" between the words "be" and "paid."

Strike out the two last clauses and insert the following: "And be it enacted, that the governor shall appoint a proper and discreet person in every hundred in each county of this state, who shall repair to and require every house-keeper within his hundred, except tavern-keepers, to deliver in an account of all the blankets the property of the said house-keeper, over and above the number necessary for and commonly used by the family in the winter season, and shall deliver to the said collector one third part of the said overplus. And if the said collector shall suspect a concealment by any house-keeper, then the said collector shall tender to the said house-keeper the following oath or affirmation, viz. I, A. B. do swear, or affirm, that I will deliver in to the best of my knowledge a just and true account of the number of blankets belonging to me, over and above the number necessary for and commonly used by my family in the winter season; and the said house-keeper shall deliver to the said collector one third part of such overplus: and the said collector shall deliver to every house-keeper, or his assigns, a certificate of the number and value of the blankets so as aforesaid received by him, which value shall be ascertained either by agreement, or by the appraisement, on oath, of an indifferent person, to be administered by the collector, and be paid by either of the treasurers of this state, who shall transmit, with all convenient speed, to the governor and council, fair and exact lists of the number of blankets, and from and by whom collected; and the said collectors shall, without loss of time, convey to and deposit in the public store at Annapolis, the blankets collected in their respective hundreds, to be delivered out on the order of the governor and council, for the public use; and if any such house-keeper shall refuse to render such account of blankets, upon oath or affirmation, as aforesaid, or shall refuse to deliver such proportion of the overplus as aforesaid, such house-keeper shall forfeit the sum of twenty pounds current money, to be recovered in the county court of the county where such house-keeper resides, for the use of the state, by indictment or action of debt; and the said collector to whom such refusal shall be made, is hereby required to give information of such refusal to the grand jury of the succeeding court.

"And, whereas the inhabitants of several parts of this state have on former occasions supplied blankets to the regular troops or militia, Be it therefore enacted, that no blanket shall be required of any house-keeper, who shall make it appear, to the satisfaction of any collector, that he or she hath heretofore supplied any number of blankets, for the use of any regular troops or militia, equal, in the opinion of such collector, to what such house-keeper might be required to supply in virtue of this act, but if not equal, then a deduction shall be made of the number heretofore supplied, out of the number which such house-keeper might otherwise be obliged to deliver.

"And be it enacted, that the collectors shall receive five per cent. on the value of the blankets by them respectively collected, and shall be allowed their reasonable charges for conveying them to the public store in the city of Annapolis.

"And be it enacted, that every person appointed collector as aforesaid shall, before he enters on the execution of his said office, take the following oath, before some justice of the peace, viz. I, A. B. do swear, that I will impartially, faithfully, and diligently, discharge the several duties of collector, according to an act, entitled, An act to promote the recruiting service.

"And be it further enacted, That no debtor shall be discharged from the civil process of his creditor, nor servant from the service of his master, who shall enlist into the service after the last day of November next, any thing in this act to the contrary notwithstanding."

So endorsed and sent to the house of delegates by Thomas Contee, Esquire.

"On motion, the following resolve was agreed to, and sent to the house of delegates by Samuel Wilson, Esquire.

In the SENATE, March 21, 1777.

The council of safety not being dissolved, and it appearing improper to have two existing executive powers; therefore RESOLVED, That the council of safety of this state be, and is hereby dissolved,