

The further supplement to the act entitled, An act regulating the inspection of tobacco, was sent to the house of delegates.

Mr. Miller from the committee submitted the following resolutions:

The committee to whom was recommended the bill relating to the wing dam at the head of the Susquehannah canal, beg leave to report as a substitute, the following resolutions, the adoption of which they recommend.

*Resolved*, That the governor and council be and they are hereby required to direct the attorney general of this state to prosecute either in the county court of Harford or Cecil, any person or persons who have been or may be charged with unlawfully obstructing the navigation of the river Susquehannah by a wing dam or erecting or making any nuisance in the same, in any part of said river, which is the dividing line between the said counties.

*Resolved*, That on conviction of any person or persons of the charges aforesaid, the governor and council be and they are hereby authorized and required to take the necessary means to have removed so much of the wing dam as obstructs the navigation of the Susquehannah or any nuisance that may be or has been made in any part of the said river Susquehannah. Which were read the first time and laid on the table.

Mr. Bowler from the committee reported a bill for the benefit of the town of Havre-De-Grace; which was read the first time and laid on the table.

The resolution in favor of Joseph M. Cromwell, was read the second and third time by special order, passed and sent to the house of delegates.

Mr. Bowie from the committee to whom was referred the bill to provide a revenue for the support of the government of this state, reported that the committee had had the same under consideration and were of opinion that it ought not to pass.

Mr. Chambers submitted the following message, which was read:

BY THE SENATE, Feb. 19, 1822.

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates.*—We have received your bill entitled, An act to provide a revenue for the support of the government of this state. The senate are constitutionally prohibited from altering or amending a bill to provide a revenue, and can therefore do nothing else than pass or reject this bill. The statement of the treasury department has demonstrated that the permanent revenues of the state amount to about \$82,000, and when deducted from the permanent expenditures we leave a deficit of near \$60,000. The state is now reduced to such a pecuniary condition as to leave it no longer in the option of the legislature whether a tax shall be imposed. The senate believe that a resort to taxation ought to have been had before this period, and that a judicious application of a smaller amount than is now necessary, if made at an earlier period, would have relieved the state from the embarrassment in its finances which we now experience.

Believing therefore as we do that the serious difficulties into which we have been led, are attributable in part to the failure of former legislatures to provide current means for meeting the pecuniary demands on our treasury as well as to the consequent error of appropriating to current expenditures, sums which ought to have been considered as a principal or capital, and the interest or proceeds of which ought only to have been disposed of, the senate cannot consent to proceed in a course as fatal to the best interest of the state as they believe it will be ultimately ruinous to our citizens. It appears evident that a continuation of this mistaken course of proceeding which contemplates an appropriation of the capital and permanent funds of the state to its current expenses, and a progressive increase of the amount imposed on those who are to succeed us, will ultimately result in the accumulation of such a debt, as to require a most oppressive and intolerable system of taxation.

This result the senate believe can only be avoided by a decisive and determined resolution to meet impending difficulties at their first approach, by commencing with a system of taxation which shall provide the means as well of defraying the current expenditures as of securing a fund gradually to reduce the debts already incurred by the state.

The senate are aware of the pressure of the times and of the fallacious hopes by which public bodies as well as individuals deceive themselves into a prospect of better times, and more abundant means; yet they cannot but believe that all the dictates of political wisdom suggest an energetic course. The season of peace is the proper period in which to replenish the treasury and to repay those drafts which experience has demonstrated to us a state of war will necessarily require us to make on it. How long this season may continue no human intelligence can determine. The only prudent course is to assume such an attitude as to be prepared for a change. Whether the situation of our country is or is not to experience such an alteration as will increase to our citizens the means or the inclination to meet the necessary demands of the treasury may be considered matter of speculation. That the patriotism and good sense of the people will induce them cheerfully to contribute to the security and establishment of our financial concerns is a fact which the senate cannot permit themselves to doubt.

With this view of the subject the senate have to suggest the following statements:

The deficit of revenue for the current year is fairly stated at near \$60,000. The mode of procuring a revenue contemplated by the bill sent from your house, if in other respects efficient, would not place funds in the treasury in time to meet its engagements. It appears to be absolutely necessary therefore to adopt some other mode of procuring funds as well to meet these current demands as also to discharge the debt of \$40,000 due to the Farmers' Bank. This fund the senate believe can be readily procured by authorizing a loan at five per cent. A loan to the amount of \$100,000 would place in the treasury a sum sufficient to meet all its engagements including the debt. This loan will enlarge the amount of annual expenditures by making it necessary to provide for the an-