

By the Bill, which the Gentlemen of the Upper House thought it incumbent on them to reject, it was, I find, provided and directed, that there should be paid for the Hire of a Waggon and four Horses, the Sum of Twelve Shillings and Six-pence a Day for every Day, which Waggon should carry a Load of Fifteen hundred Pounds Weight, allowing Fifteen Miles to be a Day's Journey; and for every Mile they should be obliged to travel empty, the Sum of Five-pence: Suppose then a Number of Waggons were wanted to carry a Quantity of Provision from the Magazine at *Fort-Frederick* to *Fort-Cumberland*, and several were to be impressed for that Service about *Frederick-Town*, the Owner of each of them would receive for it's going to *Fort-Frederick* light, Seventeen Shillings and Six-pence Currency, the Distance being according to common Computation, Forty-two Miles, and they may be reasonably allowed two Days to go in: As the Waggons are to be collected from several Places or Plantations, and none of them can move from *Fort-Frederick* till they are all loaded and ready to set off together (it being necessary that they should have a Convoy to secure them from any Attack of the Enemy) we may, upon an Average, suppose that every Waggon will be detained at *Fort-Frederick* two Days, for which they are not to have any Allowance. The Distance from *Fort-Frederick* to *Fort-Cumberland*, by the Waggon Road, is Seventy-five Miles, or Five Days Journey; and for travelling this Distance, the Owner of every Waggon is to receive the Sum of Three Pounds Two Shillings and Six-pence. To unload at *Fort-Cumberland*, repair their Waggons (if Necessary) and give their Horses Rest, we cannot allow them less than Two Days more, for which likewise they would not be intitled to any Satisfaction. For returning thence to *Fort-Frederick* light, at the Rate of Five-pence a Mile, there is to be paid to each, One Pound Eleven Shillings and Three-pence, and as they cannot leave this Convoy, Fifteen Miles will be then also a Day's Journey; for going home from *Fort-Frederick*, the Owners will receive Seventeen Shillings and Six-pence; and as they will have nothing to fear from the Enemy after they are come below *Conococheague*, they may travel these Forty-two Miles in Two Days. According to this Calculation, the Waggons will be from home Eighteen Days, and the Owner of each will receive for the Hire of it, during that Time, Six Pounds Eight Shillings and Nine-pence Currency, that is, Seven Shillings One Penny Three Farthings and a Third a Day, for a Driver, a Boy, four Horses, and a Waggon; a Sum that will scarcely find the Man and Boy with Victuals, and the Horses with Provender. If any Waggon should break down on the Road, the whole must be delayed till it can be repaired, or it's Load must be divided among the others, which will make them move heavily; for it is agreed to be more difficult for four Horses to draw a Load of 1500 lb. Weight in the Roads above *Fort-Frederick*, than a Load of Two Ton in the Roads on this Side the Mountains: Some of the Horses may tire, and others may stray from them in the Night and be lost, and many other Accidents may happen, which would be tedious to enumerate, but which should have been considered when you were framing that Part of your Bill. As you have been pleased to mention this same Bill to me in several Addresses, I cannot help making this Remark, that if the whole is agreeable to this Specimen, I am apt to think the Gentlemen who declined passing it, will not find any great Difficulty in justifying their Conduct.

If, Gentlemen, you shall upon more mature Consideration, resolve to prepare another Bill to settle the Rates for Waggon Hire, in a different Manner from that which was now proposed, I shall Hope that you will likewise make a Provision for the Payment of the Owners of such as it may be necessary to impress for carrying Provisions or Military Stores to either of his Majesty's Forts within this Province. This, I am sure, is the least Thing that our most gracious Sovereign will expect from you, after the Professions which you have so often made of the warmest Zeal for his Majesty's Service, and your Declaration, that it would give you the greatest Concern to see *Fort-Cumberland* in particular fall into the Enemy's Hands. If any Words fell into my former Message, that seem'd at first View, to imply such a Suspicion as you mention, I hope you will believe that they did not flow from any ungenerous Disposition; I know you have all undergone the Qualification necessary to distinguish you to be loyal Subjects; and I should act very unwisely indeed to intimate, that there was Room to suspect you of Disaffection, when you need only appeal to the Journal of your Proceedings to shew that such Insinuation was without Foundation.

December 11th, 1757.

HOR<sup>o</sup>. SHARPE.

Which said Message was Read, and Ordered to lie on the Table.

Col. *Nitghman*, from the Conferees of both Houses, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker, the following Report, viz.