

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 1777. 47

The house unanimously reject the proposition of the senate to strike out the two last clauses, also the first, second and third clauses proposed by them, concur with the fourth, and reject the fifth.

ORDERED, That a message be prepared to the senate, acquainting them therewith.
Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

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

The house met.

The following message being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Sheredine and Mr. Douglass.

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, March 22, 1777.

May it please your honours,

THIS house have agreed to the several amendments proposed by your honours to the first and second clauses of the bill, entitled, An act to promote the recruiting service, and are of opinion, that if the act of limitation should be pleaded, the same should be given in evidence on the general replication, without being pleaded specially. This house cannot consent that the governor should have the appointment of the collectors of blankets, unless on the recommendation of both houses, who are best acquainted with the most proper persons in the different counties of this state.

The several clauses proposed by your honours to be substituted in the bill, except the one directing an oath for the collector, are disagreed to by this house.

We would propose to your honours, that an oath or affirmation to prevent concealment should be administered to every master or mistress of a family, and that all the blankets that may be necessary for the use of the family, in the opinion and judgment of the collector, should be taken to supply the present distresses of our troops. We are of opinion, that the owner is an improper judge of what he ought to spare, and that one third only of the overplus above the number necessary for, and commonly used in a family in the winter season, would produce a number very inadequate to our necessities. If the senate retain their opinion, that the collectors should convey to, and deposit the blankets collected in the public store at Annapolis, we would submit to their consideration the propriety of inserting other places for that purpose, as Baltimore and Chester-Town, and that the governor and council might be empowered to order the blankets to such places and under the care of such persons as they should think proper.

If an agreement in sentiment cannot be obtained on that part of the bill which relates to the procuring of blankets, we would propose that the other parts of the bill, now agreed to by both houses, should be passed into a law.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

The committee to whom the bill, entitled, An Act to punish certain crimes and misdemeanors, &c. was re-committed, bring in and deliver to Mr. Speaker the said bill; which was read with the amendments, passed, and sent to the senate by Mr. S. Chase and Mr. Benson. They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker they delivered the bill.

Mr. S. Chase brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill, entitled, An Act to direct the forms of the commissions to the judges and justices, &c. which was read a first and second time by an especial order and will pass. Sent to the senate by Mr. Wright and Mr. Craufurd. They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker they delivered the bill.

The house adjourns till Monday Morning 9 o'clock.

M O N D A Y, March 24, 1777.

THE house met. Present the same members as on Saturday, except Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Ridgely, and Mr. Bowie. The proceedings of Saturday were read. Mr. Crabb and Mr. M'Pherson appeared in the house.

George Plater, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill, entitled, An act to prevent desertion, thus endorsed; "By the senate, March 22, 1777: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table."

"By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

"By the senate, March 24, 1777: Read the second time and will pass with the amendments herewith sent."

By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

Amendments proposed to the bill, entitled, An act to prevent desertion. In the sixth line from the bottom of the first page strike out the word "any."

In the fourth line of the second page, between the words "brought" and "which," insert the following: "if such justice shall be informed thereof, if not, then he shall give a certificate, expressing such of those circumstances as shall come to his knowledge."

In the fourth line from the bottom of same page insert the words following: "or such of those circumstances, as shall be mentioned in the certificate sent with such deserter," between the words "belong" and "in."

Strike