

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 1777. 23

province for the time being, by the late lord proprietaries, or any persons acting under their authority, together with interest thereon, at six per cent. shall be deducted and discounted out of the said debt due from the land-holders of this state," be struck out. The question was put, and resolved in the affirmative.

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messrs.	Read,	M <sup>r</sup> Pherson,	Henry,	Brice,	Edelen,	Chase,
	R. Barnes,	Forbes,	Daffin,	Gibson,	Young,	Sprigg,
	Plowden,	Maddux,	Veazey,	Goldborough,	H. Wilson,	J. Barnes,
	Lethrbury,	Winder,	Ward,	Kent,	Smith,	Hughes.
	Fitzhugh,	L. Wilson,	Alexander,	Earle,		

N E G A T I V E.

Messrs.	Ford,	Hammond,	Stevenson,	Contee,	Bond,	Burges,
	Maxwell,	Worthington,	Hyland,	Purnell,	Smithson,	Williams,
	Gresham,	Tillard,	West,	Mitchell,	Douglafs,	Crabb.
	J. Hall,	Deye,	Magruder,	Sheredine,		

The bill being read throughout, with the amendments, the question was put, That the said bill do pass? Carried in the negative.

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messrs.	Ford,	Hammond,	Stevenson,	Contee,	H. Wilson,	Burges,
	Maxwell,	Worthington,	Hyland,	Purnell,	Bond,	Williams,
	Gresham,	Tillard,	West,	Mitchell,	Smithson,	Crabb.
	J. Hall,	Deye,	Magruder,	Sheredine,	Douglafs,	

N E G A T I V E.

Messrs.	Read,	M <sup>r</sup> Pherson,	Henry,	Brice,	Earle,	Chase,
	R. Barnes,	Forbes,	Veazey,	Gibson,	Edelen,	Sprigg,
	Plowden,	Maddux,	Ward,	Goldborough,	Young,	J. Barnes,
	Lethrbury,	Winder,	Alexander,	Kent,	Smith,	Hughes.
	Fitzhugh,	L. Wilson,				

On motion, RESOLVED, That this house will, on to-morrow, take into consideration the state of the treasury.

The house took into consideration the report of the committee, relative to the assessment of property in this state, and thereupon RESOLVED, That the assessment of property in the several counties may be made more equal, by ascertaining the value of the lands in the respective counties, and to fix the highest and lowest prices for the best and the worst lands, over or under which the assessors shall not go, leaving the lands of the intermediate quality to the skill and judgment of the assessors, in whose valuation the good or ill condition of the lands, in respect to improvements or situation, shall be observed; that valuable improvements on said lands ought to be considered independent of the rates to be hereafter specified as above. That a general rule, in respect to the value of negroes, should be adopted, also of plate, bar-iron, and pig-iron: For the residue of personal property, that the same be left to the determination of the assessors, leaving a power in the commissioners to examine the returns of the assessors, and adjust them in their several counties as near an equality as possible; that all tobaccos in the several warehouses at the time of assessment, ought to be valued by the assessors, and the assessment paid before delivery, by the inspector, except only tobaccos belonging to the state, or where it shall appear by affidavit of the party, or some indifferent witness, that the same hath been already assessed; that proper powers ought to be vested in the commissioners of the tax, now or hereafter to be named, to call before them the several assessors, and to examine and correct their returns according to the rates hereafter to be specified, and where no returns have been made by assessors, to call on them for such returns, and to appoint new assessors where the former assessors cannot or will not act, and to use their endeavours that the assessment be in every county completed and made as nearly equal as may be.

On motion, leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, An additional supplement to the acts for assessment of property in this state. ORDERED, That Mr. Hall, Mr. Lethrbury, Mr. Chase, Mr. Edelen, and Mr. Henry, do prepare and bring in the same.

A petition from John and Walter Hanson was presented to the house and read, setting forth, That in consequence of a resolve of convention in December 1775, they had obtained the sum of five hundred pounds out of the public treasury, for the purpose of erecting a powder mill, but that from the advanced price of labour and materials of all kinds, it was not possible for them with that sum to complete the said works, and therefore praying that a further sum of five hundred pounds may be advanced them for the purpose aforesaid. ORDERED, That the committee of