

under such restrictions and limitations of price as the general assembly may think proper, for the use and benefit of this state, and that proper measures should be immediately adopted for that purpose.

4. That a power be given to the governor and the council, if they shall judge it absolutely necessary for the subsistence of the army of the United States, to commission and direct agents properly qualified to take into their possession any grain or other provision, that may be found in the possession of any person, more than is necessary for the support of themselves and family for one year, who shall refuse to sell the same for the current prices, the said price to be paid to the owner or possessor on taking the said provisions out of their possession.

5. That there is reason to believe that sundry persons in this state have withheld and refused to sell their wheat and other grain of the growth of the preceding years, by means whereof the fly and other destructive vermin have been increased and produced, to the great detriment of the public, and that, to remedy the evils arising from such a conduct, a power be lodged in the agents to be appointed as above mentioned to seize the same, giving to the withholders one half of the current price.

6. That a law be immediately enacted, to prohibit the distilling of grain of any kind, to continue until the end of the next session of assembly; and as the exertions of this state alone will not have all the desired effects to prevent the evils arising from this pernicious practice, the conferees are of opinion, that letters to the several adjacent states be wrote under the authority of the general assembly, urging the necessity of similar measures being adopted by them.

7. That for the immediate supply of cloathing, blankets, shoes, and other necessaries for the use of the troops of this state in the army, the governor and council be requested to use their utmost endeavours to procure the same by purchase, and for that purpose be empowered to draw on the treasury of this state for such sums of money as may be necessary; and for the future supplies of cloathing and other necessaries for our quota of troops, and for the supply of salt for this state, that they be earnestly requested to exert their powers in the importation and purchasing of such articles on the best terms, by exporting the produce of this or any of the United States.

Signed per order,

H. RIDGELY, cl. conf.

Which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

F R I D A Y, December 3, 1779.

THE house met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. J. Hall appeared in the house.

Mr. Gresham brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

By the COMMITTEE appointed by the honourable house to receive and examine any proposals for the establishment of manufactories, and to consider and report the best means for setting on foot manufactories, and promoting the trade and commerce of this state; also to enquire into and report what hath been done by those who have heretofore received encouragement for manufactories.

YOUR committee, in pursuance of the order and direction of the house, report as follows, to wit:

That they have received no proposals for the establishment of manufactories.

Your committee conceive this state at present so much at the mercy of the present race of importers, speculators, &c. &c. that a board of trade is absolutely essential.

Your committee therefore recommend to the honourable house, that a board of trade be established under the direction of two or three virtuous men, acquainted with commerce, who should be enabled to dispose of any state vessels or other unnecessary articles, the property of this state; and the money arising from the sales to be appropriated in purchasing fast sailing vessels, for the purpose of importing necessary cloathing for the troops in the service of this state, and military stores and salt.

Your committee further report, that it appears by bonds, and the state of accounts on the books of the auditor-general, that there remains due to this state the sum of £. 30,032 12 11½. Annexed is a list of those to whom the money was advanced, and for what purpose.

Your committee are of opinion, that several of the persons have complied in part with the tenor of their bonds, but upon the whole we conceive the public have derived little or no benefit from the liberal encouragement given by the legislature.

All which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

Signed by order,

NICH. HARWOOD, cl. com.

Which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The house adjourns till 3 o'clock.