

tion of the house. He was thereupon ordered to withdraw, and, after some time, the house adjourned till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

T H U R S D A Y, November 16, 1780.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Craufurd and Mr. Hall. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The petitions and letters received yesterday from the senate by Thomas Stone, Esq; were read.

Mr. Clagett has leave of absence until to-morrow week.

ORDERED, That the letters from the governor and council to the merchants and others in Baltimore, with their answers, be referred to the committee appointed to devise an effectual mode to protect our rivers and bay.

Mr. W. Stevenson, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report :

THE committee appointed to consider and report a probable and speedy mode to procure a quantity of salt for the public use, &c. beg leave to report, that they have taken the matter to them referred into their consideration, and thereupon come to the following resolutions :

That it is the opinion of the committee, that the governor and council be authorized and requested immediately to appoint an active, discreet and spirited person, to purchase salt in Worcester and Somerset counties, and to furnish such person with new bills of credit and crop tobacco; and that such person should be authorized by law to seize, for the use of the state, any quantity of salt he can find in the possession of any engrosser, or any person who may have purchased up the same for sale, and to pay the owner the current market price at the time of his purchase.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that the governor and council be authorized and requested immediately to appoint an active, discreet and spirited person, to purchase salt in Frederick county, and to furnish such person with new bills and crop tobacco; and that such person should be authorized by law to seize, for the use of the state, any quantity of salt he can find in the possession of any engrosser, or any person who may have purchased up the same for sale, and to pay the owner the current market price at the time of his purchase.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that the governor and council be authorized and requested to direct, that 4000 bushels of salt be purchased at St. Eustatia and Cape François, or at any Dutch or French island, and shipped on freight, if practicable, if not in vessels purchased there, at the risk and for the use of this state; and that the governor and council be also authorized and requested to direct, that 6000 bushels of salt be purchased at Cadiz, and shipped on freight if practicable, if not in vessels purchased there, at the risk and for the use of this state; and, to enable the governor and council to execute this request, that they give orders to their agent at the Havannah to purchase, with the money in his hands belonging to this state, bills of exchange on Cadiz, and remit them there, to pay the draughts in the West-Indies, and the purchase of salt in that city.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that the governor and council be authorized and requested to ship on freight, in two or more vessels from this state, through the capes, or by Delaware bay, to the West-Indies or Europe, one hundred hogsheads of good new tobacco, and 300 barrels of flour, and to direct that the sales be invested in salt, and shipped on freight in different vessels if practicable, if not in vessels to be purchased there, at the risk and for the use of this state.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that the governor and council be authorized and requested to employ some person to purchase in the state of New-Jersey or Pennsylvania, as much salt as the sales of 100 hogsheads of tobacco in the city of Philadelphia will pay for; and that the governor and council be authorized and requested to direct, that 100 hogsheads of good tobacco be immediately transported to Philadelphia for sale, to procure cash for the purpose aforesaid.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that to encourage the importation of salt into this state from Europe or the West-Indies, through the capes or any of the United States, that the same bounty ought to be allowed for a limited time to the importers as is given in the state of Virginia.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that an embargo should be laid on the export of salt from this state, unless for the use of the United States.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that for the encouragement of the manufacturing salt within this state, that a bounty should be paid by the public to the manufacturer.

Your committee beg leave further to report, that they have made the several enquiries directed by the honourable house, and that the governor and council, in the month of June last, chartered and loaded a brig with 581 whole and 42 half barrels of flour (which cost the state £.88,271 16 1 currency, charges included) for the Havannah; that the brig is returned with a load of about 97,000 pounds of best Spanish sugar, one half of which is the property of the state,

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