

the western shore; one at — in Pocomoke; one at — in Wiccocomico; two at — in Nanticoke; one at — in Choptank; and one at New-town, Chester; on the eastern shore; subject to the orders and directions of the governor and council.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that there be purchased, or built as soon as possible, one galley, to carry one eighteen pounder and two six pounders, with swivels, &c. &c. and one sloop or one schooner capable of carrying eight six pounders, and that they be well found, fitted, and manned, subject to the orders and directions of the governor and council.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that there also be purchased, or built as soon as possible, a brig capable of carrying fourteen six pounders, and that she be well found, fitted, and manned, subject to the orders and directions of the governor and council.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that there be erected a small fort, of not less than six nine or twelve pounders, with one or two block-houses, at Queen's creek, at the mouth of Patowmack.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that one company of artillery, to consist of one captain and one captain-lieutenant, and sixty-five non-commissioned officers and matrosses, be immediately raised, to serve within the state for the war, and one company, or so many as may be necessary, constantly stationed at the said fort.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that two hundred men be raised, to serve on board the said barges or row-boats, and that the governor and council be authorized to appoint and commission proper officers to command the said barges and row-boats.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that one hundred marines be raised, to serve on board the said galley and schooner, or sloop and brig, and that the governor and council be authorized to appoint and commission proper officers to command the said vessels.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that the delegates from this state to congress be directed to request his Excellency Chevalier Luzerne, to solicit his Most Christian Majesty, our illustrious and good ally, to order two of his frigates to cruise near the capes of Chesapeake, for the protection of the trade of this state and Virginia, with the subjects of his Most Christian Majesty; and that this state will supply such frigates with provisions, and, if taken or lost, will pay the value of them in tobacco within three years after peace.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that the delegates from this state to congress be directed to represent to the minister of France and Monsieur Ternay, that if the French Squadron now at Rhode-Island intend to winter in America, that there are several rivers in Chesapeake bay capable of receiving the said squadron, and where they may lie in perfect safety; that the squadron can be amply furnished with provisions by the state, and on more reasonable terms than is done at present; that the provisions now consumed by the squadron may be applied to the support of the army of the United States under his Excellency general Washington; and that the squadron in Chesapeake bay will protect the two states of Virginia and Maryland, and secure the transportation of supplies to the continental army.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that to enable the governor and council to purchase or build the barges or row-boats, or vessels, and to raise the men above mentioned, that they be authorized to appropriate to those purposes one thousand hogsheds of good tobacco, and inspected before the 2d of April 1779.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that to replace the one thousand hogsheds of tobacco, and to defray the expence to be incurred in pursuance of the above resolutions, that a tax of ten pounds of tobacco be imposed on every one hundred pounds of property within the state, payable before the first of April next; and that the makers of tobacco pay in tobacco, and that those who do not make tobacco for sale, on making oath or lodging a certificate thereof with the collector, be enabled to discharge their tax in paper money, at the current market price of tobacco, to be ascertained by the commissioners of the tax of their county at the time of their appointing assessors.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that a copy of any acts which may pass the Legislature, on the subject of the above resolutions, be transmitted to the legislature of Virginia, with a request to them to furnish vessels for the protection of the trade of this bay, in proportion to the wealth and ability of their state compared with ours; and that they direct any vessels fitted out by their state, to act in conjunction with those from this state, or to cruise alternately, for the protection of the trade of the two states; and further to request the legislature of Virginia to join this state in its application to his Most Christian Majesty for two frigates, and to undertake to furnish one half the provisions for the said frigates, and to pay one half the value of the said frigates, if taken or lost while employed in the protection of the trade of the two states; and further, that the legislature of Virginia be requested to join this state in its request, that the French squadron winter in this bay, if it remains in America during the winter.

Which are submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

By order,

J. KNAPP, clk.

Which was read.