

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

The house met.

The report on the petitions of Robert Armstrong and Bartholomew Smith was read the second time and concurred with, and leave given to bring in a Supplement to the act, entitled, An act for the relief of such of the inhabitants of this state as have or may suffer by the British army. ORDERED, That Mr. Key, Mr. Mills, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Dennis, do prepare and bring in the said bill.

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

THE committee, to whom was referred general Washington's letter of the 2d of September last, have taken the same into consideration, and are of opinion, that the appointing officers to the additional state regiment, who were not then in the line, has occasioned great dissatisfaction. That as a new arrangement of the army has been recommended by congress, and the number of regiments belonging to this state in the continental service are to be reduced to five, it will be expedient to draught the non-commissioned officers and privates of the regiment extraordinary, to fill up the old regiments; and, in order to avoid uneasiness, and prevent disagreeable convulsions, which the general, from experience, is apprehensive of, some provision should be made for the officers of the state regiment, who in this case will become supernumerary. Which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

By order,

G. RANKEN, clk.

Which was read.

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

By the COMMITTEE appointed to examine the enrollments and lists of the militia, and whether a revival of the militia laws, or any amendments to them, or further provisions, are necessary, &c.

YOUR committee have, in obedience to the order of the honourable house, examined and considered the several matters to them referred, and beg leave to report,

That from the enrollment and lists of the militia, directed by the act passed last June session, and which have been returned to the governor and council, the number of militia in each county (except Washington) will appear by the paper No. 1, herewith delivered in, to which they beg leave to refer; and have to observe, that no return has been made by the lieutenant of Washington county, and in several of the other counties the officers are not included.

Your committee have considered the act of assembly passed June session, 1777, to regulate the militia of this state, and the supplements thereto, and are of opinion, that the said acts will answer every good purpose, provided the allowance per day, and the fines imposed for any neglect or refusal, are made payable in specie, or the value thereof in paper.

Your committee are also of opinion, that it is expedient to adopt a more summary mode of imposing and collecting fines and penalties, and that when any part of the militia is called into actual service, and shall march to the place of rendezvous, and shall be dismissed by order of the governor and council, it shall be considered as a duty.

Your committee have been informed by the governor and council, that they applied to congress for the arms and field pieces, in consequence of the requisition of the general assembly of the 12th of June last, and have received from colonel Forrest only 454 stand of arms, with accoutrements, &c. complete, besides arming the regiment extraordinary.

It appears to your committee, that the whole number of recruits procured, and deserters taken up, amount to 1036. That from the best information colonel Forrest could give them, and which it was out of his power to do with any degree of certainty, 228 men of the regiment extraordinary marched to the southward; 180 privates were sent forward to join the old regiments previous to June session, and 38 since; 438 remain unaccounted for, and are supposed to have deserted or died, including those that were unfit for service, and in consequence thereof discharged. The sum of £. 66,433 1 8½, and 245 bushels and 3 pecks of wheat, have been paid by classes neglecting to find recruits, as will more fully appear by the paper No. 2, herewith delivered in.

It also appears to your committee, by the paper No. 3, that abuses have been committed by the lieutenants or field officers, in passing recruits that were disabled or unfit for service; but your committee cannot point out the particular officers or classes; and, in order to prevent abuses in future, your committee beg leave to suggest it as their opinion, that in case the lieutenants or field officers should hereafter pass men disabled or unfit for service, that a return thereof be made by the officer appointed to receive them, to the governor and council, and if they are of opinion that said men were disabled or unfit for service, the lieutenants or field officers passing such men shall be accountable for such conduct, and subject to trial by a court-martial.

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