

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 1784. 55

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 21, 1784.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

NO claim was ever made by the agent, or any estimate laid before this house. It appeared to us that he was detained in England from the first of April to the fifteenth of August last, in consequence of a bill exhibited against him in the high court of chancery of Great-Britain by Mr. Kustell, one of the trustees, and Messieurs Ewers, and trustees of John Buchanan; and it is apparent that these two suits must have been attended with considerable expence, though we are not informed of the particulars. The personal services of the agent in the conduct of the business merit in our opinion some compensation. We think the sum proposed reasonable, and have communicated the grounds for that opinion. We are not disposed to lavish the public money, and our present circumstances will not permit acts of generosity; but obligations from justice and honour, express or implied, we shall be always ready to acknowledge and discharge. As the general assembly have declared their public approbation of the conduct of the agent, and as he must have incurred considerable expence, not in contemplation or foreseen by the government or the agent, in defending and maintaining the right of this government to the bank stock, we wish him to be reimbursed as soon as possible. If your honours should conceive the sum too much beyond the chance of the commission, we would propose to advance the agent a sum of money, to be accounted for by him, and to be deducted out of the commission when the bank stock is received, allowing only the actual fees and expences to counsel, solicitors, and the officers of the court. The agent will attend the senate, and give every information in his power, and fully explain his conduct, and what he expects from the general assembly.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry purchasers of Nantucke manor, beg leave to report, that the lots which the said manor was divided into at the time of sale, was not by actual survey, and that it appears from a survey since made, several of the purchasers are injured by elder surveys running into their lots, and by said survey it appears, that some lots are more, and others less valuable than was expected at the time of sale; that at the time of sale in January seventeen hundred and eighty-one, Pritchett Willey made claim to about five hundred acres, lying within said manor, and your committee observe, that a patent did issue from the land-office the 22d day of July, 1776, to a certain Pritchett Willey, for two hundred and twenty-five acres of land called Marsh Pasture, which appears to lie within said manor, and includes near one third of the town of Vienna, which still remains in the possession of said Willey, although the purchasers have passed bonds for the lots that lie in said survey. That the sale of the said manor shall not be binding on the state or the purchasers, except where the purchasers have made improvements on the said manor since the purchase, or have sold or otherwise disposed of the same, and all bonds, except those before excepted, taken, shall be void and delivered up; and the intendant of the revenue be authorized and directed to cause a survey and plot to be made as soon as may be of the said manor, and particularly describing and delineating any land patented to a certain Pritchett Willey, or any other person, and lying within the said manor, and that the intendant give notice of such grants to the attorney-general, who shall thereupon issue writs facias, or file information in the court of chancery, to determine the validity of such grants; and that the intendant be empowered and directed to sell any land within the said manor clear of elder surveys, and not included in such grants, or improved or conveyed as aforesaid, as soon as conveniently may be, in such parcels or lots as he may judge proper and most for the benefit of the state, and the convenience of the settlers thereon, for current money, and take bond and good security for payment of the principal money on the first of January 1790, with interest annually. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

R. B. LATIMER, clk.

Which was read.

On motion, ORDERED, That Mr. Chase, Mr. G. Scott, and Mr. M'Mechen, be a committee to prepare and bring in a bill to invest congress with certain powers respecting the commerce of the United States.

The report on the petition of Job Garretson, was read the second time and concurred with.

Mr. Ridgely of William, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of James Armstrong, beg leave to report, that upon an examination of the petition and several papers therewith exhibited, they are of opinion, that many allegations set forth in the same are not supported by evidence, but that the said James Armstrong has laid in gaol several months for a judgment due a certain William Whetcroft, above two hundred pounds sterling, that he is not able to discharge the same, and that he ought to be released by an act of insolvency upon the usual terms. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

R. B. LATIMER, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. M'Mechen, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to invest congress with certain powers respecting the commerce of the United States; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Ridgely of William has leave of absence.

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

W E D.