

THE committee, to inquire into the proceedings and conduct of the commissioners appointed for the sale of confiscated British property, beg leave to report,

That in obedience to the order of the house, they have taken into consideration the subject of their inquiry, and have examined and compared the original accounts of the sales made by the commissioners with their sale book, and find them properly and particularly registered; they have also compared their sale book with the ledger, and find all the entries pointed and proper, and the public accounts stated by the commissioners, in a clear, accurate, and methodical manner.

They find the total amount of sales, including property resold, to be £. 510,853 2 3, of which there remains unbonded, by persons who have not complied with the terms of sale, the sum of £. 35,903 11 11, as appears by a state of balances hereunto annexed, to which the committee refer.

The commissioners inform the committee, that every exertion has been made to induce the purchasers to give bond, or otherwise to comply with the terms of sale, but without effect; and that suits are commenced against those who have refused to bond, in the general court in cases where the sum would admit of a suit in that court, and that the accounts against purchasers to small amounts are forwarded to the attorney-general, for the purpose of bringing suits in the county courts.

That a state of void sales is also hereunto annexed, to which the committee beg leave to refer the honourable house, amounting to the sum of £. 11,121 13 10½, for which bonds had been taken, and to the amount of £. 45,311 17 5½, for which bonds had not been taken, in the whole £. 56,433 11 3½. In this state is specified the amount of such sales as have been declared void for want of title in the state, and of those which have been voided for other causes.

That the state of Maryland is credited by the net balance of each estate confiscated, exclusive of expences, sales made void, and commissions, to the amount of £. 445,951 9 11¾, which, with the interest which accrued on the unbonded sales to the 1st of September 1784, and which, under the act of last session, to establish funds, &c. in cases where bonds have been since taken, is made principal, amounts to the sum of £. 454,181 16 2¼. The list of net balances is also hereunto annexed, to which the committee beg leave to refer the honourable house.

That the commissioners have received, for confiscated property sold by them, state certificates, to the amount of £. 25,590 10 7¾, and have produced receipts for payment into the treasury to that amount, except the sum of £. 126, which they received in March last at Baltimore-town, in certificates which have been fraudulently obtained, as they have informed the committee, and for which they hold themselves responsible to the state.

That the commissioners have received, for confiscated property sold by them, in the course of the business, in cash, the sum of £. 21,400 14 4½, and have produced receipts and vouchers to the committee, for payment to the treasurer, to general Smallwood for the recruiting service, to the commissioners for the defence of the bay, to the intendant of the revenue, and for incidental expences incurred, for the sum of £. 21,153 13 10½, which leaves a balance in the hands of the commissioners of the sum of £. 247 0 6, with which the state is credited in the commissioners account; and there appears to be due to the commissioners, after deducting the balance aforesaid, the sum of £. 2,777 4 8.

That it appears to the committee, that much time was required to complete this business, and finally settle the accounts, and by the information of the commissioners much delay has been created in the prosecution of it, by a variety of causes. The want of early surveys; purchasers paying money into different departments for public uses, in which cases it has been difficult to ascertain the proper credits and balances; by disputes, in which particular parts of the property were involved; and by that part of the act to establish funds, &c. which directed a draught of bonds.

The committee, in this inquiry, have been attentive to the interest of the state, and upon an impartial view of the conduct of the commissioners, are of opinion, that they have discharged their trust with ability and integrity.

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

By order,

R. B. LATIMER, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. N. Worthington brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, A Supplement to the act, entitled, An act to appoint a trustee to take care of the person and property of George Shipley, senior, who is insane; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The bill for the benefit of Elizabeth Wilson, was read the second time, and the question put, That the said bill do pass? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. F. Bowie appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messieurs	T. Bond,	Dent,	Ridgely of Wm. Ramsey,	Joseph Dashiell, Driver,
	De Butts,	Turner,	Edmondson, Quynn,	Love, Cellars,
	Lethbrury,	Ridgely,	Gale, Chaille,	Hughlett, Funk.
	B. Worthington,			

N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	N. Worthington,	Goldborough,	Hooper,	Digges,	Sewell,	Norris,
	Taney,	Bracco,	Oglevee,	F. Bowie,	Faw,	J. Bond,
	Fraizer,	John Dashiell,	Miller,	John Seney,	Beatty,	Stull.
	Stevenson,	Waters,	W. Bowie,			

So it was determined in the negative.