

The bill to prevent frivolous appeals and writs of error, and improper removals of causes from the interior to the superior courts, was read the second time, and the question put, That the said bill do pass? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Wootton appeared as follow:

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

Mesr.	De Butts, Lethbrury,	Carroll, Waters,	Goldborough, Cnaic,	Quynn,	Joseph Dashiell, Parnell.
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N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	T. Bond, Graves, B. Worthington, N. Worthington, Hall, Grahame, Taney, Frazer,	Dent, Turner, Ridgely, Ridgely of Wm. Stevenson, Edmondson, Bracco,	Gale, Hooper, John Dashiell, Oglevee, Miller, Ramsey, W. Bowie,	Digges, R. Bowie, F. Bowie, John Seney, Sewell, Joshua Seney, Chaille,	Faw, Beatty, Bayly, Norris, Love, J. Bond, Wheeler,	Hughlett, Driver, Stall, Cellars, Funk, Oncalc, Wootton.
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So it was determined in the negative.

The intendant of the revenue delivers in the following answer to the report of the committee appointed to inspect the books, papers, and accounts, of the intendant.

The INTENDANT of the REVENUE begs leave to submit the following REMARKS on the REPORT of the committee appointed to inspect his books, papers, and accounts, to the justice and honour of the honourable house.

1. THE committee have been pleased to report, that the intendant's books are interspersed with *erajuris*, blanks and memorandums, and are not kept in a clear and perspicuous method.

To his charge and censure, the intendant takes the liberty to observe, that there is only one book in his office in which are any *erasures*, and those but few, which is not uncommon, and by no means make the accounts less accurate or intelligible. The accounts of specifics were transcribed fairly and regularly from the book, (in which the committee discovered the *erasures*) into a new book, which was in the possession of the committee. There are some few blanks in the intendant's books, which cannot be filled up *before* the accounts of the commissary-general and others are finally adjusted. The memorandums are necessary to explain particular transactions: It can only be matter of opinion and judgment, that the intendant's books are not kept in a proper manner, and he will not presume to hazard his opinion or knowledge, in contradiction to the positive decision of the committee; he can only appeal to the books themselves, and to the inspection and judgment of gentlemen of knowledge and skill in the mode and manner of stating and keeping accounts, and he hopes members of the honourable house will examine the books; he will only remark, that his books have been annually, since his appointment, laid before both branches of the legislature, and the present is the first instance of disapprobation or censure.

2. The committee are pleased to express their surprise and regret at the large balances due from the collectors of the taxes, and impute great neglect to the intendant.

The intendant begs leave to assert, in answer to this part of the report, that he has taken every step in his power to compel payment from such collectors, consistently with the indulgences granted by the general assembly; judgments have been obtained, and upon executions issued, no person would bid for the property exposed to sale. The intendant takes the liberty to observe, that there has been great difficulty in collecting the taxes, from the real scarcity of specie; the execution of the persons of our citizens would only fill the gaols of those counties that have any; and the execution of their lands, or effects, would only add further to their distress; and few (if any) buyers can be found. Our people are greatly indebted, and hard pushed by British and other creditors. In some instances the property of the people hath been taken and exposed to sale, but no purchasers. He cannot devise any mode for collecting the money due the public, except what he has adopted, but will obey any orders the house of delegates may think proper to give him in this business.

3. The committee have expressed their disapprobation, and reprobated in severe and pointed terms the conduct of the intendant, in keeping public money in a chest, distinct and separate from other public money; and they have endeavoured to impress the house with an opinion of the dangerous tendency of this conduct, because they can discover no check to restrain the intendant in his receipt or expenditure of public money.

The intendant was first appointed by the act of November session 1781, when the public credit was at a very low ebb, and great waste and loss was experienced in the receipts of specifics for taxes. By the act of April session 1782, cap. 44, the intendant was directed to sell tobacco, flour, &c. to procure £. 50,000 in specie, for the use of congress. By the act of November session 1782, cap. 33, the intendant was ordered to sell specifics and tobacco and wheat collected, for sinking the continental state money, and he was directed to apply the produce of the sales to discharge five months pay to the officers and soldiers of the Maryland line.

By the act of April session 1783, cap. 22, it was directed, that the specie tax of 5/6 should be paid to the intendant of the revenue, and that he should sell specifics and tobacco, and apply all these monies towards the payment of the Maryland line, as ordered by the act of November session 1782, cap. 33. By the act of November session 1784, cap. 81, the intendant was authorized to sell any confiscated British property discovered to him at a reasonable price.