

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 19, 1794.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE,

WE herewith return the bill directing all certificates of surveys made on the eastern shore to be returned and recorded in the land-office of the said shore, and for other purposes. The ground on which your house have rejected a bill, which the ease and convenience of so large a portion of the citizens of this state render necessary and expedient, we are at a loss to conjecture. We consider it as a misfortune, that the two branches of the legislature should differ in opinion on a measure so interesting, and of such great utility. We have the candour to believe, that your honours, upon a reconsideration, will pay some regard to the wishes and interests of so important a part of the state. If your dissent proceeded from an opinion that the bill was defective and imperfect in its provisions, and not from any objection to its principle, we are ready to assure you, that we shall willingly accede to any amendments which your house may propose, that are calculated to carry into effect the great objects contemplated by this bill.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the report of the agent of this state, report, that they have taken his accounts, and the papers accompanying them, into consideration, and find, that from three counties of this state no return had been made to the treasurer of the eastern or western shore on the first of November last of the 2/6 tax heretofore imposed, in Worcester county in the year 1791, in Kent county in the year 1791, and in St. Mary's county in the year 1791. They further find, that several of the clerks of the counties of this state, after the actual receipt of taxes for ordinary, retailers and marriage licences, neglect to pay over the same within the time prescribed by law, although liable to a penalty of 15 per cent. interest. This committee report, that the installed debt due to this state amounts to the sum of £. 67,130 0 7, that the uninstalled debt amounts to the sum of £. 63,839 7 4, and the balances due on the auditor's books amounts to the sum of £. —, the aggregate of which sums, amounting to £. 130,969 7 11, form the outstanding ascertained debts due to this state from the citizens thereof. This committee further find, that property to the probable amount of £. 2,000 0 0 remains on hand uncollected, and that information of property liable to confiscation has been made known and discovered to the probable amount of £. 8,000, but it is impossible to report on this subject with precision, until it is determined whether said property be liable to confiscation or not. This committee call the attention of the house, to make provision in certain cases where the state has sold property, and the purchaser and securities have removed out of the state, or have become insolvent within it, or incapable of securing the debt, and refusing to install, and suggest the propriety of taking back and reselling said property, if, within a limited time after public notice given, the purchaser of the same, or his securities, or one of them, shall not come in and bond to the state with security for the principal sum and interest due on account of said purchase. This committee, under all circumstances, are of opinion, that the business of the agent's department has been conducted through the year with diligence, and attention to the interest of the state, and that the appointment of an agent should be continued, with a view to make as great a collection as possible, and to wind up the debts due to the state, by reducing them to bond, with good security, in all practicable cases, where the same cannot be collected; and in order to carry the object of this report into effect, this committee submit the propriety of the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That the agent of the state immediately demand a return of the amount of the 2/6 tax for the year seventeen hundred and ninety-one from the commissioners of the tax in those counties where the same hath not been returned, and report to the next session of assembly such as refuse to make return.

RESOLVED, That the agent be instructed to put in suit the bonds of the clerks of the respective counties who have heretofore neglected, or who may hereafter neglect, to pay the taxes by them received for ordinary, retailers and marriage licences, on the day appointed for payment of the same, and in no case to remit the penalty of fifteen per cent. imposed by law, and accruing on such their neglect of payment.

RESOLVED, That the agent reduce to bond, as speedily as possible, all balances on open account due to the state in cases where the same is practicable.

RESOLVED, That the agent immediately call on the supervisors of the roads of the several counties of this state, who have before the first day of January, 1785, received advances of public money, and omitted to account therefor, to render an immediate account of their receipts and disbursements, with the balance remaining due, and to enforce the payment of the same, after the first of August, 1795, by process of law, if then unpaid.

All which is submitted to the house.

By order,

J. W. KING, clk.

Which was read.

On motion by Mr. Key, seconded, by Mr. Ridgely, of William, Leave given to bring in a bill to appoint an agent for the ensuing year. ORDERED, That Mr. Key, Mr. Oneale and Mr. Winchester, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill to authorize a lottery for the benefit of Hannah Sater, of Baltimore county, endorsed; "By the senate, December 19, 1794: Read the first and second time "by especial order and will not pass.

"By order,

N. PINKNEY, clk."

Mr. Mitchell appeared in the house.

Mr. Ringgold,