

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of William Ferguson, of Prince-George's county, report, they have taken the same into consideration, and find, that in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-three the petitioner purchased of the state the tract of land in the petition mentioned for the sum of one thousand three hundred and eighty-two pounds; that at the time of sale it was supposed to contain the quantity of five hundred and seventeen acres of land. The committee further find, that clear of elder surveys the said tract only contains four hundred and twenty-four and one quarter acres; that the ninety-two and three quarter acres, included in elder surveys, are equal in value to the rest of the tract; they further find, that the whole purchase money, with interest, has been paid by the petitioner. The committee are of opinion the petitioner is entitled to compensation from the state for the said deficiency in the proportion it bears to the whole purchase, with interest thereon; they therefore submit the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the chancellor be and he is hereby authorized and requested to examine into the facts stated by William Ferguson, in his petition to this house for relief, as to the deficiency of ninety-two acres of land complained of in his purchase from this state, and to report to the next session of assembly a statement of facts, with his opinion thereon, and what compensation, if any, the said Ferguson is entitled to.

By order,

R. K. WATTS, clk.

Which was read the first and second time, and the resolution therein contained assented to, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill to pay the civil list, and other expences of civil government, endorsed; "By the senate, January 16, 1798: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk.

"By the senate, January 19, 1798: Read the second time and will pass.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk."

Ordered to be engrossed.

The resolution respecting the bank stock, endorsed; "By the senate, January 19, 1798: Read the first and second time by especial order and assented to.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk."

The resolution in favour of Leonard Davis, endorsed; "By the senate, January 15, 1798: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk.

"By the senate, January 19, 1798: Read the second time and assented to.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk."

And the engrossed bills No. 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 54, 60, 63, 67, 74, 75, 85, 86, 87, 88, 92, 93 and 103, with the paper bills thereof; which engrossed bills were severally endorsed; "By the senate, January 19, 1798: Read and assented to.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk."

The bill to relinquish the right of this state to the lands therein mentioned, was read the second time and passed as amended.

Amendment proposed. At the end of the bill add, "Provided always, That nothing herein contained shall in any manner affect or defeat the right (if any) of the informer of any of the said lands as liable to confiscation, in case he shall think proper to prosecute the same, under any of the existing laws of this state, within two years next after the passing of this law; and such informer is hereby empowered, at any time within the said term of two years, to commence a suit or suits in the court of chancery against any of the holders or possessors of the said lands, or any of them, for the recovery of the value of the interest of the said informer; wherein the chancellor, in case the right of such informer be established, may decree either a partition of the said lands, or a sale thereof, or of any part thereof, to satisfy the claim of the said informer, and may make such order in the premises as in justice and equity shall seem right and proper to ascertain the value of the interest aforesaid of such informer."

Sent to the senate by the clerk.

The bill to enable the corporation of the city of Annapolis to lay a tax on property within the said city, and the precincts thereof, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

The following resolution being propounded to the house, viz.

RESOLVED, That _____ dollars be advanced by the treasurer of the western shore, in semi-annual payments, to the order of the trustees of Charlotte Hall academy, in Saint-Mary's county, and that the like sum, in the same manner, be severally advanced to the order of the trustees of the academy at Frederick-town, in Frederick county, and to the trustees of the grammar school at Elkton, in Cecil county, to the trustees of the grammar school at Easton, and to the trustees of Washington academy, in Somerset county.

Was read the first and second time, and the question put, That the same be postponed till the next session of assembly? The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:

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| A F F I R M A T I V E. | | | | | | | | | |
| Messieurs | Angier, | Taney, | Jones, | C. Frazier, | Bond, | R. Magruder, | | | |
| | Comegys, | Bourne, | S. Frazier, | Emory, | Young, | | Summers, | | |
| | Brogden, | Brome, | Craig, | Jarfett, | Riley, | | | Tomlinson, | |
| | Hall, | Merryman, | Wallace, | M'Comas, | P. Magruder, | | | | Rice. |
| | Emerson, | Martin, | J. Brown, | | | | | | |
| N E G A T I V E. | | | | | | | | | |
| Messieurs | Greenwell, | Parnham, | Hyland, | Duckett, | Key, | Thomas, Fred. | | | |
| | J. C. Thomas, | Thomas, Chas. | Hollingsworth, | Calvert, | Wilson, | | Smith, | | |
| | Godman, | Kerr, | Matthews, | Quynn, | Warfield, | | | Dorsey. | |
| | Chapman, | Harwood, | Addison, | | | | | | |
| | So it was resolved in the affirmative. | | | | | | | | |

Mr. Key