

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER, 1779. 29

Your committee have also examined the books of John Muir, your present commissary, whose books stand fair, correct, and regularly stated. He produced to your committee an inventory of the goods delivered him on his appointment to that office, and have examined that inventory with the account of goods by him delivered, together with an inventory of goods now on hand, and find they have gained in quantity, which is to be accounted for by the difference in French and English measure. We herewith lay before you an inventory of goods now in the commissary's hands, No. 6, as likewise an account of the goods by him delivered, from the 20th of June, 1778, to the 25th of November, 1779, as per said account No. 7, as likewise a list of balances due the state, from the 20th of June, 1778, to the 25th of November, 1779, as per said account No. 8, which we submit to the consideration of the house.

Your committee further report as their opinion, that the commissary of stores should be directed to dispose of the saltpetre on hand, and that instructions should be given him, what ought to be done with the hoghead of medicine in his care, the proprietor unknown.

Your committee further beg leave to report, that the auditor-general should be empowered to call on the several commissaries to settle and audit their books of accounts.

Your committee are of opinion, that your present auditor-general, considering the perplexed state that the books were in at the time of his appointment, hath done his duty, and should the house think proper to continue him in that office, he ought to have a liberal salary, as the business that will necessarily attend that department will be attended with considerable difficulty and trouble.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

Signed by order,

NICH. HARWOOD, cl. com.

Which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Richard Barnes, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker two letters from James Calhoun, deputy quarter-master-general, bearing date the 26th and 30th of November, 1779, directed to his excellency Thomas Sim Lee, Esq; which were severally read.

Mr. J. Hanson, from the conference, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

At a conference agreed to by the two houses of assembly, for the purpose of considering the proper measures to be adopted to procure speedy and full supplies of flour and forage for the army of the United States, by what mode a quantity of cloathing, blankets, shoes, and other necessaries, can be obtained to furnish the troops of this state, and the recommendation of congress of the 19th of November, to enact laws for the establishing and carrying into execution a general limitation of prices.

W E R E P R E S E N T,

Matthew Tilghman, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and Brice Thomas Beale Worthington, Esquires, senators, John Hall, John Henry, John Hanson, William Stevenson, Peregrine Leitchbury, and Samuel Chase, Esquires, delegates,

Who made choice of Matthew Tilghman, Esq; president, and Mr. Henry Ridgely, clerk.

YOUR conferrees, appointed for the above purposes, have agreed to the following propositions, and submit the same to the consideration of the general assembly.

1. That it would be improper at this present session of assembly, to enact laws establishing and carrying into execution a general limitation of the prices of country produce, common labour, the wages of tradesmen, mechanics, and foreign merchandise, agreeable to the resolution of congress of the 19th of November, 1779. But although your conferrees are of opinion, that it would be highly inconvenient to, and bear hard on, the inhabitants of this state, to frame laws for a general regulation of prices, to have effect, before it is ascertained that the several states in the union will adopt similar measures; yet they would beg leave to recommend to the general assembly, that commissioners be appointed to meet commissioners, appointed by the legislatures of the several states of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island and Providence plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia, at the city of Philadelphia, on the first Wednesday of January next, for the purpose of considering the expediency and practicability of limiting the prices of merchandise, produce, and labour, and of agreeing to the same, should they judge it necessary, in such manner as may be best adapted to the situation and circumstances of this state; and that the commissioners, so to be appointed by this state, report their proceedings to the next general assembly for confirmation if deemed proper.

2. That as the great number of purchasers, under a variety of characters, has tended to create the very high and exorbitant prices of grain and other provisions necessary for the army, the conferrees are of opinion, that no person whatever be permitted to purchase within this state any grain or other provisions, except the commissary-general and his deputies duly authorized, and that the latter ought to be limited as to their number and district by the general assembly.

3. That as your conferrees are satisfied great quantities of the articles last mentioned have been purchased up, contrary to, and in evasion of, the laws in existence, the same should be seized