

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4, 1792.

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Proceedings of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES.

Wednesday, November 23.
 A REPORT was read from the Secretary at War on the petition of the legal representatives of William Bonney, Wadleigh Naves, Charles Moore, Samuel Wile, Benjamin Hager, John Ruff, and Richard Shubrick, officers slain in the service of the United States during the late war.

Referred to the committee for making compensations to widows, orphans, and invalids.
 Petitions from Peter Huber and James Pettigrew, praying the renewal of certificates lost or destroyed. Referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Petitions from John Blake and Michael Rapp, praying compensation for advances & supplies, during the war.

A petition from Paul Weyandt, of Pennsylvania, praying receipt of the pay due to his son, Lieut. Jacob Weyandt, who died in the United States' service during the war.

A petition from Juliana Shutz and Philip Zepher, executors of George Shutz, deceased, for allowance of the rat of a tenement, the property of said Shutz, appropriated for the use of the medical department during the war.

Ordered, severally, to lie on the table.
 A memorial was read from the people called Quakers, in Virginia, stating their objections to certain parts of the militia bill, now depending. Referred to the committee of the whole house on said bill.

The house then proceeded to the consideration of the amendments reported yesterday by the committee of the whole house to the bill appropriating the representation of the people of the United States, according to the first enumeration.

After some time spent in debate, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

According to the order of the day, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the committee of elections, relative to Mr. Pinkney's resignation, and Mr. Mecca's certificate of the election in his room, from the executive of the State of Maryland.

It was finally resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, That John Francis Mercer is entitled to take a seat in this house, as one of the representatives for the State of Maryland, in the room of William Pinkney.

Adjournd.

Thursday, Nov. 24.
 A number of petitions were read, and severally referred, some to the Secretary of War, and others to the Secretary of the Treasury, to report thereon.

A petition of Hendrick Doyer, Geneva distiller, in New York, praying that the active serving a duty on distilled spirits may be so modified and amended, that the duty on Geneva imported from abroad, may be augmented; and the duty on the said article distilled within the United States, reduced. Referred to the Secretary of the Treasury for his information.

Mr. Dayton, from the committee, presented a bill to extend the time limited for the settling the accounts of the United States, with the particular States.

Read a first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole on Tuesday next.

Mr. White, from the committee, presented a bill to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes read a first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole house on Monday next.

The engrossed bill, appropriating the representation of the people of the United States, according to the first enumeration, (of one representative to thirty thousand inhabitants) was read the third time; and on the petition being put, it was carried in the affirmative 50 Years 43—N 212.

Ordered that the clerk carry the said bill to the desks for their concurrence.

According to the order of the day, the house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the committee's report relative to James Jackson's petition, complaining of the undue election and return of Anthony Wayne, from Georgia.—Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair.

After some time the Speaker retained the chair, and Mr. Muhlenberg reported, that the committee had taken the report into consideration, and made progress therein.

Resolved, That the house will again tomorrow, take the report into consideration. Adjournd.

Friday, November 25.
 Mr. Philip Key, a new member from Maryland, appeared and took his seat.
 Mr. Wardsworth, from the committee, presented a

bill for making compensation to widows, orphans, and invalids in certain cases.

Read a first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole house on Monday next.

Mr. Wardsworth, from the committee for compensations for invalids, &c. presented a bill for the relief of David Cooke.

A petition of William Dabry was read, praying relief in consideration of a wound received, in the United States' service, during the war.

Also a petition of Alice Veitch, late-widow of Lieut. Samuel Kenney, deceased, praying to receive the pay due to her husband, who died in captivity with the enemy, during the war.

A memorial of John Elliott and Abner Prior, praying farther compensation for their services, as surgeons in the late army of the United States.

Referred severally to the Secretary at War, to report thereon.

According to the order of the day, the house, in committee of the whole, resumed the consideration of the report of the select committee, on the petition of Anthony Wayne, from Georgia.

After some debate on this subject, the committee rose, and reported amendments to the said report which were read, and, in part, agreed to.

The report being further amended, and the question put thereupon, was agreed to.

The several orders of the day were postponed until Monday next.

Adjournd.

Monday, November 28.
 A bill for the relief of David Cooke, was read a second time, referred to a committee of the whole house, and made the order of the day for tomorrow.

The report of the secretary of the department of War, on the petition of Joseph Phelps, praying for a pension, &c. from which he appeared to be debarred, by the limitation set being called upon, after considerable debate, it was resolved, that the reports of the secretary of War, on the petition of Joel Phelps, and others, (in all 35) whose claims appear, by the said report, to be precluded only by a resolve of Congress, of 11th of June, 1788, praying to be placed on the invalid pension list, which have not yet been acted upon, be referred to a committee of the whole house, on the first of the month.

Mr. Ames presented a petition from the proprietors of the fall cloth manufactory in Boston, praying Congress to make it penal to counterfeit their stamps and marks. Referred to the secretary of State, to examine and report.

The bill for making compensation to widows, orphans, and invalids, in certain cases, was then taken up in committee of the whole, Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair.

The committee proceeded through the Major part of the first section, and agreed to the clause granting sums, equivalent to seven years half pay, to the orphan children of Capt. R. Lewis, the widow of Colonel W. Douglas, and the orphan children of Major A. Leitch. The same provision was also agreed to, in favour of the widow of Col. O. Roberts, with process, that, if any part of the said annuity has been already paid to her by the State South Carolina, she shall only receive the balance.

By the next clause, a similar provision was intended for the children of Capt. W. White, whose widow had intermarried, but not until after the expiration of seven years from his death. On this,

Mr. W. Smith suggested the propriety of considering whether the widow of a deceased officer, even in case of intermarrying, was not still entitled to that part of the half pay annuity which had not occurred previous to the marriage;—more especially as it is probable, that she had in the interim, secured some expense for the maintenance of the orphan children.

Mr. Sedgwick observed, that the claim to the annuity agreed to the widow immediately on the death of the officer;—that she had a right from day to day;—that, if the contract of government had been performed, she would have received the whole previous to her marriage. He would therefore move to strike out "the orphan children;" for the purpose of inferring the name of their mother.

Mr. Ames was of opinion, that the only right, acquired by the widow on the death of her husband, was the right of applying for the provision: Instead of making the application, she had intermarried; and that intermarriage operating as a renunciation of the provision, it must, in his opinion, revert to the children. At to any expense, by her incurred for the maintenance of the children, if the children receive any share from the public, that estate becomes chargeable with their maintenance; and the widow will come like every other creditor.

Mr. Livermore observed, that, as the widow had not intermarried during the seven years, for which she was entitled to the half pay, her claim must still hold good: It was a right given to her for her own use, not to pay her husband's debts: Her non-application for it, could not upon any principle be considered into a renunciation of the right from her to her children; who had no pretensions at all to it, during the seven years that she remained single;—and if by not applying for the provision, she forfeited her claim to it, the children were excluded as well as she.

Mr. Williamson remarked, that in some of the States, where laws were past on similar subjects, no respect was had for the time past, the annuities commencing only from the time of the passing the law: Further he observed, that, if the widow had received the money, from day to day, the children would have partaken of the benefit; whereas if it be now given to her husband, they will be excluded from all participation of it.

Mr. Lawrence requested the committee, that there was no act of Congress limiting claims of this nature; and he hoped, that, no such law would now be made: if the widow's first husband is entitled to the compensation, it must be given to him although he may not make the proper use of it: The intermarriage of an officer's widow involved the forfeiture, not of what had already accrued to her, but of what was hereafter to accrue: She had continued a widow for seven years, and the delay of payment during that time, was no reason why she should lose her right.

The question on the motion for striking out "the orphan children;" being taken and carried, the motion's name was inserted, after which, the committee rose, reported progress, and fixed leave to sit again tomorrow.

Adjournd.

Tuesday, Nov. 29.
 Sundry petitions were read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Livermore, from the committee, for that purpose appointed, brought in a bill for establishing the post offices and post roads of the United States, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Dayton presented a petition from certain persons under the description of refugees from Canada, which was read and referred to a select committee of Messrs. Dayton, R. Bunker, and Venable.

The order of the day was then called for, and the house in committee of the whole proceeded on the bill making compensation to widows, orphans, and invalids, in certain cases, and having gone through the same with some amendments, a motion for rising was agreed to, and the house adjourned.

Wednesday, Nov. 30.
 Several petitions were read.

The report of the Attorney general on the judiciary system, was referred to a select committee of Messrs. Lawrence, Sedgwick, Murray, Kittera, and Madison.

Mr. Goodhue reported a bill concerning the registering or recording of wills or testaments, which was read the first and second time, and referred to a committee of the whole on Tuesday next.

Mr. B. Bourne presented two petitions from the distillers of rum and Geneva in Providence, praying a repeal of the excise law, which were read and referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Lawrence moved, that a committee be appointed to prepare and report a bill, declarative of the extension of the regulations of Congress of the 23th of August, 1780, respecting the claims of the widows & orphan children of officers—the act of June 11th, 1788, notwithstanding.

The order of the day was then called for, on the bill making compensation to widows, orphans, and invalids, in certain cases; and after considerable discussion, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Adjournd.

Thursday, Dec. 1.
 An engrossed bill making compensation to widows, orphans, and invalids in certain cases, was read a third time, and passed. The title was altered to read: An act for the relief of widows, orphans, invalids, and other persons.

The bill sent from the Senate for concurrence relative to the election of the president and Vice-president, &c.—was read a first time.

A report from the Secretary at War, on the petition of Capt. William Cambell, was read and laid on the table.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair, to take into consideration a bill for the relief of David Cook. The bill was reported without amendment. A clause was introduced by the house, making provision for Capt.