

WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

Published weekly by ALLMIND HALL, at THREE DOLLARS A Year.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1803.

[Vol. 7, No. 320.]

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, House of Representatives.

Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire whether any and if any, what alterations are necessary in the law, entitled, "An act to amend the judicial system of the U. States;" and to report thereon by bill or otherwise.

Messrs. Brent, Perkins, and Jones appointed the committee.

Mr. Brent from the committee appointed on the 21st ult. on the petition of sundry inhabitants of Alexandria, made a report which was agreed to as follows: and Messrs. Brent, Van Horne, and Talmage appointed a committee to bring in a bill.

Resolved, That whenever the legislature of Virginia shall pass a law authorizing the incorporated society of that state known by the name of "the Mutual Insurance Society on Buildings in Virginia against accidents by fire" to extend their insurances on buildings in the county of Alexandria, agreeable to the same laws, rules and regulations, by which the said society is governed in their insurances in that state, from thenceforth it shall be lawful for the said society to have the same right and mode of recovering in the courts of the county of Alexandria against any inhabitant thereof, so insuring with the said society his building in the said county against the said accidents by fire, which might be had against him, if the person so insuring, was a citizen, and the buildings so insured, situated in the state of Virginia.

The house again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. John C. Smith in the chair, on the report of the committee to whom was referred so much of the President's message, as relates to navy-yards and the building of docks.

After a consideration of the same, the committee rose, and reported that they had agreed to the first resolution as stated in our list, and had made further progress in the second resolution.

The house proceeded to consider the report, agreed to the first resolution, and appointed Messrs. Mitchell, Rutledge, Hanna, Wadsworth, and Mott, a committee to bring in a bill pursuant thereto.

On the question whether the committee should have leave to sit again on the second resolution, it passed in the negative.

On which the following motion was made and agreed to.

Resolved, That a committee consisting of Messrs. Mitchell, Rutledge, Hanna, Wadsworth, and Mott be appointed to enquire into the usefulness and propriety of constructing a dock or docks of the public navy-yards, or elsewhere within the United States, for the building and repairing ships of war.

Friday, Jan. 21.

An engrossed bill for incorporating an insurance company in the city of Washington, was read a third time and passed; ayes 32, noes 23.

An engrossed bill for the relief of Hugh Alexander, was read a third time and passed.

The house went into a committee of the whole, on the bill amendatory of the act to incorporate the city of Washington, Mr. John C. Smith in the chair.

Several amendments were made; when the committee rose and reported the bill, which was postponed till Monday next.

On motion of Mr. Dennis, the house took into consideration a resolution laid some time since on the table, for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the expediency of continuing the mint at Philadelphia, and to enquire what alterations or improvements can be made in that establishment.

Mr. Dennis observed that the present law would expire on the third day of March next. It was time, therefore to take order on the subject. He thought the enquiry proposed by the resolution a proper one. If the result of such enquiry were that important improvements could be made he should vote for the continuance of the institution; if otherwise, he should vote for its entire abolition.

The resolution was carried—Ayes 43—and a committee of five appointed.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. J. C. Smith in the chair—on the report of the committee appointed on the 7th inst. to consider whether any, and if

any, what alterations are necessary in the military establishment of the U. States, as follow:

The committee appointed on the 7th inst. to consider whether any, and if any, what alterations are necessary in the Military Establishment of the United States, ask leave to submit the following resolutions to the consideration of the house.

Resolved, That there be added to the regiment of artillery, two teachers of music, whose pay, rations, and clothing shall be the same as is by law allowed to the teachers of music in the regiment of infantry.

Resolved, That the President of the United States be authorized to appoint one teacher of drawing, to be attached to the corps of engineers, whose compensation shall not exceed the pay and emoluments of a captain.

Resolved, That the commanding officer of the corps of engineers be authorized to enlist for a term not less than three years, one artificer and eighteen men, to aid in making practical experiments, and for other purposes, to receive the same pay, rations and clothing, as are allowed to the artificers and privates in the army of the United States, and the same bounty when enlisted for five years, and to be subject to the rules and articles of war.

Resolved, That the President of the United States be authorized to allow to the paymaster of the army, the adjutant and inspector of the army and the military agent at Philadelphia, such sums each for clerk hire as their respective duties may, in his opinion, reasonably require.

The 1st resolution was agreed to—Ayes 36—Noes 17.

The 2nd resolution was agreed to—Ayes 42—Noes 17.

The 3rd resolution was agreed to without a division.

The 4th resolution was opposed by Mr. Gregg, on the ground that the discretion thereby vested in the President of the United States was improper; and that if an appropriation for the clerk hire of the officers therein named was necessary, it ought to be made and defined by law.

On the question being put, the resolution was disagreed to—Ayes 23.

The committee rose and reported the resolutions agreed to.

The house immediately took up the report, when Mr. Randolph remarked that notwithstanding the importance of the business before the house, there was scarcely a quorum within the bar, in consequence, probably, of the intense cold. As he was averse to interesting business being thus conducted, he moved that the house adjourn. Carried—Ayes 42—Noes 35.

Monday, Jan. 24.

Mr. Mitchell presented a memorial from the chamber of commerce of New-York, against the repeal of discriminating duties.

Referred to the committee of the whole, to whom that subject was referred.

The memorial, on the motion of Mr. Bayard, was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Mitchell rose to address the house on a subject of a commercial nature. He alluded to the depredations committed upon the commerce of the United States, by French armed vessels during the late war in Europe.

After some preliminary observations, he laid the following resolution on the table:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire, by what means, the value or amount of property taken from citizens of the United States by the French during the late war in Europe, can be best ascertained, and the several sorts of captures distinguished and classed, and report their opinion thereupon to this house, to the end that indemnification may be made.

Mr. Randolph, from the committee of ways and means, reported it as their opinion, that no alterations are necessary in the act supplementary to the act laying a direct tax.

The report is accompanied by a letter from the chairman of the committee of ways and means to the secretary of the treasury, and his answer.

Referred to a committee of the whole house on Monday next.

The committee to whom was referred a bill from the Senate, and sundry resolutions respecting the erection of monuments; reported that it would not be expedient at this time to make provision for the erection of

any other monuments beside those contemplated by resolutions of the old congress; and accordingly reported amendments making provision for the erection of monuments to Generals Warren, Mercer, Nash, and De Calbe, in addition to those directed to be erected in the bill received from the senate.

Referred to a committee of the whole house on Thursday.

Mr. S. Smith from the committee, on so much of the President's message as relates to American seamen left abroad, reported a bill, which was read twice, and referred to a committee of the whole house on Thursday next.

The house took up the report of the committee of the whole on the report of the select committee on the alterations necessary to be made in the military establishment.

The house concurred in the two first resolutions, and non-concurred in the third.

On agreeing to the report of the committee in their disagreement to the 4th resolution, respecting the allowance of clerk hire.

The question was taken on concurrence and lost; Ayes 23.

Mr. Leib moved to amend the resolution, so that a sum not exceeding in the whole 2000 dollars, should be allowed for clerk hire.

Carried; Ayes 41; Noes 23.

The resolutions were then referred to a select committee to bring in a bill.

Mr. Davis said he held a resolution in his hand, which embraced a measure of considerable importance and which he had long contemplated. He had suggested it last session; but owing to the press of other business, he had not then urged it. He then offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of concentrating the several public offices, and other public buildings belonging to the United States in the city of Washington; and concluded by giving notice that he would move the appointment of a committee by ballot, instead of the ordinary way, (by the Speaker.)

Mr. S. Smith, according to notice called for the order of the day on the report on discriminating duties.

Several members rose on this subject when it was at length postponed until Monday next.

The house took up the amendments of the committee of the whole to the bill amendatory of the act for incorporating the city of Washington, concurred therein, made other amendments, and recommitted the bill to a select committee of three.

Tuesday, Jan. 25.

Mr. Davis called up his motion laid on the table yesterday; as follows:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of concentrating the several public offices, and other public buildings belonging to the United States in the city of Washington; which was agreed to without debate—Ayes 55.

When a motion was made to appoint the committee consisting of 7 members by ballot, and carried—Ayes 53.

The ballots being taken, the Speaker appointed Mr. Thomas Morris and Mr. Woods, Tellers.

On declaring the ballots, it appeared that but one member of the committee was elected, viz. Mr. Davis, he only having a majority of all the votes given.

The house then proceeded to a second ballot, according to a standing rule of the house, only a plurality of votes is required on a second ballot.

The ballots being declared, the following additional members of the committee appeared to be appointed; viz.

Messrs. Griswold, Mitchell, Gregg, Condit, Bayard and R. Williams.

The speaker laid before the house a report of the Secretary of state on the memorial of Tobias Lear.

Referred to a committee of the whole on to-morrow.

The speaker also laid before the house a report from the Post-master General, which was referred to the Post-Office committee.

Mr. Helms reported a bill to make provision for persons who have been disabled by wounds in the revolutionary war, which was read twice, and referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

Wednesday, Jan. 26.

Mr. Jones introduced the following motion with a few preliminary remarks.

Resolved, That the repeal of the discriminating duties on foreign tonnage and merchandize imported in foreign vessels, recommended by the committee of commerce and manufactures in their report on that subject made on the 10th instant, shall not extend to foreign ships or vessels, or the articles imported therein from the colonies or dependencies of any foreign nation unless the ships and vessels of the United States shall enjoy the same privileges in the navigation and trade between the United States and such colonies and dependencies as art or may be allowed to the ships and vessels of the nations to which such colonies or dependencies may belong.

Referred to a committee of the whole to whom was referred the report of the committee of commerce and manufactures on countervailing duties.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the report of a select committee on so much of the President's message as relates to a warfare with Tripoli, &c. Mr. Varnum in the chair.

The resolution, with which the report concludes, authorising the procuring four ships of war not exceeding 16 guns each, was agreed to without a division; when the committee rose, and the house immediately confirmed their report, and ordered a bill to be brought in.

Mr. Hill, from the committee on the memorial from certain inhabitants of Wilmington (N. C.) made a report, with an accompanying bill.

The report concludes with a resolution that the memorial be referred to the secretary of state, to be laid before the President.

The report was agreed to, and the bill referred to the committee of the whole.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill for the importation of ordnance, arms, &c. Mr. Varnum in the chair.

Mr. Rutledge proposed an amendment, for extending the right of importation duty free to individuals as well as states.

Messrs. Bacon and S. Smith said a few words against, and Messrs. Macon and Rutledge in favor of the amendment; when, on the question being put, it was lost.

Ayes 35, noes 45.

The committee then rose and reported the bill without amendment.

On taking the question on ordering the bill to be engrossed for a third reading, the yeas and nays were required, and were yeas 46, nays 49.

The refusal to engross is equivalent to a rejection of the bill.

On motion of Mr. Mitchell, the house went into a committee of the whole, Mr. Dawson in the chair, on the bill for the encouragement of learning and the promulgation of the useful arts.

Mr. Bayard moved to extend the section so as to extend the privilege of obtaining patents to aliens as well as citizens.

On this motion, a debate ensued until the hour of adjournment.

Messrs. Bayard, S. Smith and Early supported, and Messrs. Randolph, Griswold and Mitchell, opposed the motion.

On the question being put, the motion was lost.

Ayes 17, noes 44.

Thursday, Jan. 27.

Mr. John C. Smith, from the committee of claims, reported on the memorial of the mayor and commonality of Alexandria respecting expenses incurred for quarantine, that it would be expedient to pass a law respecting quarantine, but that the request of the memorialists to be reimbursed monies expended by them being unreasonable, ought not to be granted.

Referred to a committee of the whole house to-morrow.

Dr. Mitchell presented a memorial from a number of mechanics of the city of New-York against the repeal of discriminating duties.

Mr. Bacon laid the following motion on the table:

Resolved, That it is expedient for Congress to recede to the state of Virginia, the jurisdiction of that part of the territory of Columbia, which was ceded to the United States by the said state of Virginia; by an act passed the 3d day of December, in the year 1799, entitled "An act for the cession of ten miles square," or any less quantity of "territory within this state, to the United States, in Congress assembled," for the permanent seat of the general government.

Provided, the said state of Virginia shall consent and agree thereto.

Resolved, That it is expedient for Congress to recede to the state of Maryland the jurisdiction of that part of the territory of Columbia which was ceded to the United States by the said state of Maryland, by an act passed the 19th day of December, in the year 1791, entitled "An act concerning the territory of Columbia and the City of Washington."

Provided, the said state of Maryland shall consent and agree thereto.

On motion of Mr. Nicholson a committee was appointed to enquire whether it is expedient to make an, and if any, what alterations in the acts for the establishment of a marine corps and of fixing the rank and pay of the commanding officers.

Mr. Griswold presented a memorial from eleven of the late circuit judges of the United States, representing that they have been divested by law of their judicial duties, and requesting Congress to define the duties to be performed by them and to assign some judicial tribunal competent to a decision of their claim for salary.

Mr. Griswold moved a reference of the memorial to a select committee.

Mr. Gregg moved a reference to a committee of the whole house.

This last motion, after debate, prevailed—Ayes 53.

Mr. Randolph moved that it be made the order of the day for that day.

Mr. Griswold moved that it be made the order for to-morrow.

Mr. Randolph's motion prevailed.

When the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. Dawson in the chair.

Mr. Griswold then submitted two resolutions.

The first to provide by law for defining the duties of the circuit judges.

The second to provide by law for submitting to judicial decision the right of the judges of the circuit court to compensation.

After debate, the committee divided on the first resolution—Ayes 24—Noes 53—lost.

And on the second resolution—Ayes 35—Noes 57—lost.

Mr. Varnum then submitted a resolution—that the prayer of the petition ought not to be granted, and that the petitioners have leave to withdraw their petition,—which was carried without a division.

The committee rose and reported this resolution, which was agreed to, the Yeas and Nays being called—Yeas 61—Nays 37.

The speaker laid before the house a memorial and remonstrance from the citizens of Alexandria, against a territorial legislature.

Friday, Jan. 28.

Mr. Jones presented a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce of Philadelphia, respecting the injurious results from a construction given at the custom-house, at Philadelphia, of the 14th section of the revenue law, respecting the recording and registering vessels.

Referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Mr. John C. Smith, from the committee of claims, made a report on the petition of George Mason, a revolutionary soldier. The report states that no provision appears to have heretofore been made for the allowance of pensions to soldiers of the South-Carolina line, of which the petitioner was one; and concludes with a resolution that it is expedient to make provision by law for invalid pensioners of that line.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Tuesday.

Mr. Cutler presented a petition from the merchants, ship-owners, and ship-builders of Newburyport, praying that the acts imposing discriminating duties may not be repealed.

Referred to the committee of the whole on discriminating duties, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Davis offered a resolution for instructing the committee of ways and means to enquire into the expediency of suspending for a limited time the collection of all debts or duties due the United States from the citizens of Tennessee, Ohio, Kentucky, and the Indiana and Mississippi territories.

Mr. Davis said as the government had lately passed a law suspending the payment of duties due by the citizens of Portsmouth in consequence of a fire at that place, he thought the citizens of the western country, from the peculiar situation in which they were placed, had as strong a claim on the indulgence of Congress