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## Proceedings of Congress.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, April 28.

**T**HE bill for regulating processes in the courts of the United States, was read and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

The petition of John Bond, of New-York, merchant, relative to the tonnage law, was read.

Mr. Benson presented a conveyance, agreeably to an act of the legislature of New-York, for ceding the light-house at Sandy Hook, and buildings thereunto belonging to the United States.

The house then went into a committee of the whole, on the mitigation of fines, forfeitures and penalties, under the revenue laws of the United States, Mr. L. Ermore in the chair; which was gone through in the committee and reported to the house.

Mr. Burke gave notice that he would to-morrow, move for a committee to bring in a new bill for the relief of a certain description of officers, as he had reason to believe that which had been already agreed to in the house, was lost in the senate for want of some particular information having been regularly laid before the senate.

The house then went into a committee of the whole on the bill for the government of the territory on the south of the river Ohio to which a number of amendments were made and the bill ordered a third reading to-morrow.

The speaker having resumed the chair, Mr. Page, from the committee for that purpose appointed, presented the form of a bill for preserving records, &c. of the different states.

The house then went into a committee of the whole on the bill for regulating the trade with Indian tribes, and made progress therein; but on motion of Mr. Jackson, the bill was recommitted to the same committee who had formed it, with the addition of two members, Mr. Bloodworth and Mr. Steele.

The house then adjourned until to-morrow.

Thursday, April 29.

Mr. Sherman, Mr. Smith (S. C.) and Mr. Vining were appointed a committee to report to the house if any, or what further rules were necessary to regulate the proceedings in the house; and also to confer with a committee of the senate respecting further regulations in conducting business between the two houses.

Mr. Fitzsimons, Mr. Smith (M.) and Mr. Sturges were appointed a committee to bring in a bill for the government and regulation of seamen in the merchant's service.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill supplementary to the act, entitled, "An act for establishing the salaries of the executive officers of government, their assistants and clerks." The bill being gone through with, and amended, the committee rose, and the house agreed to the same. By this bill the secretary of state is allowed to employ another chief clerk at a salary of 800 dollars per annum.

The house took into consideration the bill for providing means of intercourse with foreign nations and agreed to the same as amended by the committee of the whole on Tuesday last.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill "for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and other writings, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned.

Monday, May 3.

The bill to prescribe the mode in which the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of each state shall be authenticated so as to take effect in every state, and

The bill to allow compensation to

Col. John Ely, for his attendance as a physician and surgeon to the American prisoners on Long-Island, were read a third time, and passed the house.

The bill to authorize issuing certificates to a certain description of invalid officers was read the second time, and ordered to be engrossed.

The bill for adjusting and settling the claims of the Baron Steuben, was read a second time and referred to a committee, of the whole to-morrow.

Mr. Fitzsimons reported a bill for the regulation and government of seamen in merchant's service; which was read a first and second time.

Mr. Lee presented a petition from the inhabitants of Alexandria, respecting certain clauses in the tonnage act—read and referred to the committee, on the report of the secretary of the treasury, relative to the defects of the revenue laws.

On motion of Mr. Goodhue, the report of the committee on the petition of the inhabitants of Portsmouth (N. H.) respecting an enhanced duty on foreign tonnage, was read. The report proposes that an additional duty of one dollar per ton be laid on foreign bottoms, and ten per cent. additional impost on goods imported from ports in which American vessels are not permitted to enter. This was referred to a committee of the whole house on Friday next.

On motion of Mr. Smith, (S. C.) it was moved that the accounts of the treasurer of the United States should be printed and annexed to the journals of the house.

Mr. Gerry suggested the propriety of reading those reports on petitions, from the heads of departments which negative the prayers of such petitions, as well as those in favor of granting them; as, he observed the contrary practice is in fact delegating a very extraordinary power to executive officers. After some debate, Mr. Gerry submitted the following in substance; "That the reports on memorials and petitions not determined upon in one session may be called up in a subsequent session.

On motion of Mr. Smith (S. C.) that part of the President's speech which respects the encouragement of science and literature was read. He then moved that it should be referred to a select committee.

Mr. Stone, enquired what part of the constitution authorized Congress to take any steps in a business of this kind? For his part he knew of none. We have already done as much as we can with propriety—We have encouraged learning, by giving authors an exclusive privilege of vending their works—this is going as we have power to do, by the constitution.

Mr. Sherman said that a proposition to vest Congress with power to establish a national university was made in the general convention, but it was negatived—It was thought sufficient that this power should be exercised by the states in their separate capacities.

The house adjourned without a decision.

Tuesday, May 4.

A message was received from the senate informing the house that they have passed a bill for extending the judicial law of the United States to the state of North-Carolina—also, that they have concurred in the vote of the house, to consider, if any, and what further rules are necessary to be adopted in conducting business between the two houses—also to determine the period at which the appointment of President, Vice President, senators and representatives of the United States commenced agreeable to the constitution.

The bill to authorize issuing certificates to a certain description of invalid officers was read the third time and passed.

A memorial of—Moore of North-Carolina proprietor of West-Point was read, referring to requisition of the late Congress for purchasing the property;

In committee of the whole on the bill for adjusting and satisfying the claims of Baron Steuben.

Mr. Stone moved that the report of the secretary of the treasury on the Baron's memorial should be read—the clerk read the same. The committee proceeded in the discussion of the bill.

The clause which proposes an annuity of 2706 for life was objected to. Several amendments were proposed and lost; a lengthy debate was supported on other propositions, but a motion for the committee's rising prevented a decision.

A message was received from the senate, with the bill providing for the government south of the Ohio—the amendments of the house to this bill were not agreed to—Adjourned.

Wednesday, May 5.

The house receded from their amendments to the bill for the government south of the Ohio, which had been disagreed to by the senate—they agreed to the amendments proposed by the senate to the bill for the mitigation or remission of forfeitures and penalties accruing in certain cases under the revenue laws.

A message was received from the senate informing the house that they have passed a bill prescribing the mode of authenticating the acts records and proceedings of the several states.

The committee appointed for that purpose reported a bill for the collection of the additional duties on wine, rum, &c. as proposed by the late resolutions of the house. The said bill was read the first time and laid on the table.

The bill from the senate, for extending the judiciary laws of the United States to the state of North-Carolina was read a second time.

The house resolved itself into a committee and made further progress for adjusting and settling the claims of the Baron Steuben.

On motion of Mr. Smith (S. C.) the secretary of the treasury was directed to report the amount of tonnage duty collected in each of the states between the first day of September and the first day of January last, distinguishing the foreign from the domestic tonnage.

Thursday, May 6.

A very long memorial of Nathaniel Twining, was read—praying further compensation for the transportation of the mail in 1787.

Mr. Stone of the committee appointed for the purpose, reported a bill for funding the public debt of the United States—which bill was read a first and second time, and made the order of the day on Wednesday next.—100 copies were ordered to be printed.

In committee of the whole on the bill for adjusting and satisfying the claims of William Frederick Steuben.

The clause which proposes an annuity of 2706 dollars during life, was further discussed—several amendments were proposed to the bill; some of which were withdrawn, and others negatived, it was at length agreed to in committee without alteration. This bill was opposed in its progress by Mr. Williamson, Mr. Bloodworth, Mr. Steele, Mr. White, Mr. Bondinot, Mr. Seney, Mr. Sinnickson and Mr. Stone—and supported by Mr. Smith (S. C.) Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Vining, Mr. Huntington, Mr. Wadsworth, and Mr. Clymer.

Adjourned.

Friday, May 7.

In committee of the whole on the bill for adapting the judiciary laws of the United States, to the state of North-Carolina, some amendments were agreed to, and several clauses added to the bill; the committee then rose and reported the same; the house succeeded to these amendments.

Mr. Bland, after stating to the house, that in consequence of obtaining (as is supposed) a surreptitious copy from a public office, of the names of officers and soldiers in the Virginia and North-Ca-

rolina lines of the late army to whom arrears of pay were ordered to be made by a law passed the last session of Congress, some persons had fraudulently procured assignments of pay, for a consideration much below their value. He therefore moved a resolution to prevent the frauds taking place in the following words viz. Resolved, that the Secretary at war, be, and he is hereby directed to cause accurate lists to be forthwith published in the news papers of the states of Virginia and North-Carolina, of all officers and soldiers, who are entitled to receive certain arrears of pay, due to the lines of the army in the said states, for which money was granted and appropriated by Congress, at their last session; and that the payment be made to the said officers and soldiers, or where dead, to their legal representatives, under the same regulations as have been adopted for the payment of invalid pensioners, in pursuance of an act passed the last session of Congress, entitled "an act, providing for the payment of the invalid pensioners of the United States," and that no claim of any assignee, under any transfer or power to receive the same be admitted, as valid to entitle any person to receive any part of the said arrears of pay, due to the officers or soldiers of the said lines, except as aforesaid.

This motion was committed to Mr. Bland, Mr. Williamson and Mr. Burke.

The bill for adjusting and satisfying the claims of the Baron Steuben, as reported by the committee of the whole, was taken up by the house. An amendment tantamount to a substitute for the whole bill, was moved by Mr. Bondinot, which proposed the payment of 7000 dollars and an annuity of 1500 dollars during life, to commence from the first of January 1790; a motion was made and carried to strike out 1500 dollars, to leave the sum blank.

Mr. Steele—Mr. chairman, I object to one clause in that bill, I mean the clause which grants an annuity of 2706 dollars to the Baron for life; the rest of the bill is, in my opinion, not exceptionable; but if this clause cannot be stricken out, I hope I shall not be thought inconsistent to vote against the whole.

It is with reluctance that I speak on this occasion, because I foresee that my motion will be combated by some very respectable gentlemen, and because my opinion goes against the demands of a very meritorious officer; but, sir, I have so high an opinion of the pride and delicacy which this officer possesses, that I would risk an assertion, that he would prefer a small sum, unanimously voted, to any sum that has been named, if carried only by a small majority.

I am at a loss to know whether this demand is made upon a contract entered into upon his coming to America, or whether it is a demand upon the generosity of Congress; if it is upon a contract, that contract should be clearly and satisfactorily made appear, as well as full proof of the pecuniary sacrifices he sustained on leaving his native country; if it is made upon the generosity of the house, which, I take it, is the best ground to go upon, we should extend our generosity in that mode which would be least exceptionable.

But some gentlemen have said, that though the contract does not appear upon the journals of the former Congress, and though it cannot now be made appear by any documents, yet, from his coming to America in perilous times, and entering our service, that a contract was implied. This I admit, and precisely such a contract as was made with every American officer—"If you succeed, we must be paid; if you fail, our country's lot shall be yours." This was the language of the American officers, many of whom sacrificed more than this German gentleman, many of whom performed as essential services, and all of whom have had hitherto, and I trust