

state's quota of the Continental Army, agreeable to the recommendation of Congress, and for supplying the treasury with a sum of money for that purpose.”

Witness my hand,

A. B., }
C. D., } Committee.

H. G., Treasurer.

— which form shall be printed on good paper, to be procured by the treasurer, with a suitable border round the same, within which shall be inserted the words “State of Massachusetts Bay.” the word “Committee,” the words “Witness my hand” and the word “Treasurer,” struck off from a copperplate, which the treasurer is likewise directed to procure; and each blank shall be stamped in some convenient part of it with a stamp to be procured by the treasurer for that purpose; and when said notes are issued, a counterpart, indented, of each note, shall be kept by the treasurer.

And be it further enacted,

Committee to countersign.

[SECT. 2.] That Thomas Dawes and Richard Cranch, Esquires, be a committee to sign blank notes, in the form prescribed, at the left hand, and to number them before they are filled up by the treasurer.

And be it further enacted,

Treasurer to issue to the officers and soldiers for their balances, notes, payable at certain periods.

[SECT. 3.] That the treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to issue to each of the said officers and soldiers, in favo[u]r of whom a warrant shall be drawn by the council of this state, for their respective bal[an]ces, four notes, in the form aforesaid, of equal sums, as near as may be, the whole containing the bal[an]ce due to them, respectively; one of which notes to be payable the first day of March, *Anno Domini* one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one; another, payable the first day of March, *Anno Domini* one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two; the third, payable the first day of March, *Anno Domini* one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three; and the fourth, payable the first day of March, *Anno Domini* one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four. And the council are hereby [i]m[p]owered and requested to issue their warrants in favo[u]r of any of the said officers and soldiers, upon its being certified to them by the committee of this court, appointed to settle with the army, what is the bal[an]ce due to such officer and soldier: *provided*, it shall appear, by a return made by a general officer, or the commanding officer of a regiment, that any such general, field staff or commissioned officer, belongs to this state's quota of the Continental Army, and that such non-commissioned officer and private soldier hath inlisted and been mustered as one of this state's quota of the Continental Army during the war, — such returns specifying to what company and regiment or corps they belong.

The council empowered to issue their warrants in favor of said officers, etc., upon a certificate given.

And be it further enacted,

Treasurer empowered to issue his notes in manner and form aforesaid.

[SECT. 4.] That the treasurer of this state be, and he is hereby, directed and [i]m[p]owered to issue his notes, in the manner and form aforesaid, to each non-commission[e]d officer and private soldier who is, or hath been, of this state's quota of the Continental Army, who engaged for three years, and who hath not, or shall not, before the settlement is made, and the bal[an]ce due to him as [s]er[tain]e[d], re-inlist as one of this state's quota of the Continental Army, during the war, upon receiving a warrant from the council therefor: *saving*, that the payment of the bal[an]ce due to such officer or soldier, shall be in four notes, of equal value, as near as may be; and the first note shall be made payable the first day of March, *Anno Domini* one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five; and the second

Notes payable at certain periods.

note shall be payable the first day of March, *Anno Domini* one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six; the third shall be payable the first day of March, *Anno Domini* one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven; and the fourth shall be payable the first day of March, *Anno Domini* one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight.

[SECT. 5.] And the council are hereby [i][e]mpowered and requested, in like manner, to issue their warrants in favour of such non-commissioned officers and private soldiers, on being certified as before mentioned, by the committee of this court appointed to settle with the army, what the balance due to such non-commissioned officer and soldier is, and upon its appearing, by a return [as] aforesaid, that he was enlisted for three years as one of this state's quota of the Continental Army, and that he hath served in said army the whole of the three years, or that his time is not yet expired, and he is still in the service; and the council are also hereby [i][e]mpowered and requested, and the treasurer is hereby [i][e]mpowered and directed, to proceed in the same manner and form, *mutatis mutandis*, with respect to the executors, administrators or heirs-at-law of such officers and soldiers who were engaged for three years or during the war, as part of this state's quota of the Continental Army, and who have died or been slain in the service, upon similar certificates being produced.

Council empowered to issue their warrants.

And be it further enacted,

[SECT. 6.] That the justices of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general goal delivery, or the major part of them, for the time then being, are hereby [i][e]mpowered and directed to compute and determine, at their first session in every year, what are the current prices of the said four articles, of corn, beef, sheepswool and sole-leather, upon an average through the state, at the several times of payment[s] of the aforesaid notes herein mentioned; and also what is the true value of every pound of said notes, in the then current money of the state; and shall certify the same to the treasurer, and lodge a copy thereof in the secretary's office, upon the first day of March, every year, during the term of eight years; and the treasurer is thereupon directed to pay the value of said notes, and the interest thereon remaining unpaid, as they become due, accordingly: *provided*, that the interest of said notes shall, if demanded, be paid according to the same rule and proportion, annually.

Justices of the superior court of judicature, etc., empowered to compute and determine the current prices of certain articles.

Interest to be paid if demanded.

And, to the intent that the current prices of the said four articles of corn, beef, sheepswool, and sole-leather, at the several times of payment herein mentioned, may be more easily as[s][e]rtained; and in order that a just and equitable settlement may be, annually, made with this state's quota of the Continental Army, in future, for their future services, —

Be it further enacted.

[SECT. 7.] That Richard Cranch, Esq^[r], in the county of Suffolk; Stephen Choate, Esq^[r], in the county of Essex; Simon Stow, Esq^[r], in the county of Middlesex; Justin Ely, Esq^[r], in the county of Hampshire; John Turner, Esq^[r], in the county of Plymouth; Mr. Micah Blackwell, in the county of Barnstable; James Williams, Esq^[r], in the county of Bristol; Seth Washburn, Esq^[r], in the county of Worcester; Capt. Joseph Sewall, in the county of York; Mr. Thomas Child, in the county of Cumberland; Thomas Rice, Esq^[r], in the county of Lincoln, [and] Asa Bemont, Esq^[r], in the county of Berkshire, be, and they are hereby, severally, appointed to collect and keep a true account, according to the best of their judgments of the prices of each of the aforesaid four articles, in their respective counties, monthly,

Certain gentlemen appointed to ascertain the monthly prices of certain articles in their respective counties.

upon an average of the whole month, for every succeeding month, during the term of eight years from the first day of January in the present year; and they shall make a true report of the same into the secretary's office, upon the last Tuesday in the month of August, and on the third Tuesday of the month of February, annually, during the eight years as aforesaid, which return shall be under oath, certified by a justice of the peace for the same county, in the form following; viz^[e], —

Return to be made on oath.

Form of said oath.

ss. The day of , A.D. 17 . This certif[y][ie]s that A. B. personally appeared the day above, and made solemn oath that the within report by him subscribed is a just and true report of the current prices of the several articles of corn, beef, sheeps-wool, and sole-leather, in the county of , for the months of upon an average of each month, respectively, (upon a medium taking the county together), according to the best of his judgment, upon the best information he could obtain.

Before me,

A. B., *Justice of the Peace for the county of* .

— and the justices of the superior court, as also the committee of the general court who may be hereafter appointed to settle with the army for future service, shall have recourse to said reports in order to assist them in their calculations.

And be it further enacted,

Tax to be levied on the polls and estates, for the redemption of said notes.

[SECT. 8.] That there be and there is hereby granted a tax of eight millions of pounds, to be levied on the polls and estates, within this state; one million of which to be paid into the treasury, on or before the twentieth day of December, in each of the years of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, [and] one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven; each of the said millions to be levied according to such rules and in such proportions as shall be agreed upon and ordered by the general court or assembly, at their sessions in June in each of the years aforesaid, respectively; and the sums so granted shall be applied for the redemption of the aforesaid notes, which shall be issued by virtue of this act; and if any part of the said tax should remain after redeeming such notes, the remainder shall be applied to defray the necessary expences of government.

And be it further enacted,

[SECT. 9.] That if the general court shall not, some time before the first day of August in each of the years before mentioned, respectively, agree and conclude upon an act apportioning the said sum to be paid in such year, respectively, then and in such case each town and other place in this state shall pay, by a tax, to be levied on the polls and estates within their limits, respectively, the same proportion of the said sum as such town or other place was taxed by the general court, in the tax act then next preceeding.

[SECT. 10.] And the treasurer of this state is hereby [i][e]mpowered and directed, some time in the month of August in every such year, to issue and send forth his warrants, directed to the selectmen or assessors of each town or other incorporated place within this state, or to some suitable person or persons in such place or places therein as are not incorporated, requiring them to assess the polls and estates within their several towns and other places, for their respective parts and

proportions of the sums before directed and engaged to be assessed, to be paid into the treasury on or before the twentieth day of December, in such year respectively; and the assessors, as also all persons thereby assessed, shall observe, be governed by, and subject to, all such rules and directions as shall have been given in the then last preceding tax act.

Provided, nevertheless, —

[SECT. 11.] That if the general court shall make provision for the redemption of the notes which may be issued in consequence of this act, before the several years, respectively, on which the tax granted hereby is ordered to be laid, then the clause granting said tax, together with the other clauses grounded thereon, to be void; otherwise to remain in force.

Provided, also, —

[SECT. 12.] That in all cases where the bal[1]ance due to any officer and soldier shall not exceed the sum of one hundred pounds, the treasurer is directed to issue one note, only, for the whole bal[1]ance; and the times of payment shall be the same as the second payment would be, where it is made in four notes. Proviso.

[SECT. 13.] And in case of the death, or removal out of the county, of any of the persons herein appointed in the several counties to keep an account of the prices of said articles, there shall be other persons appointed in the room of such by the general assembly, or in their recess, by the council of this state; and all such persons appointed for said purposes, shall have such reasonable allowance for their services as shall hereafter be determined by the general assembly.

[Passed January 13, 1780.*]

CHAPTER 30.

AN ACT FOR APPORTIONING AND ASSESSING A TAX OF TWO MILLIONS SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND NINETY-FIVE POUNDS TWO SHILLINGS AND TWOPENCE, UPON THE SEVERAL TOWNS AND OTHER PLACES IN THIS STATE HEREINAFTER NAMED, FOR DEFREYING [THE†] PUBLIC CHARGES; AND ALSO FOR ASSESSING A TAX OF TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO POUNDS, PAID THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THEIR TRAVEL AND ATTENDANCE IN THE GENERAL COURT THE TWO FIRST SITTINGS IN THE PRESENT YEAR.

WHEREAS it is necessary that the aforesaid sum of two millions seven hundred and ninety-three thousand six hundred and forty-seven pounds two shillings and twopence, should be raised and paid into the public treasury of this state, as soon as may be [be], for[e] the payment of this state's quota of the Continental charges which Congress, by their order of the [6th][sixth] of October last, have recommended to be d[one†] as soon as may be; and also to defrey such public charges as have arisen, or may arise, for the support of government, —

* Passed January 10, according to the printed act.

† Engrossment mutilated.