

adhered to, that he had prepared an additional list of articles, which he asked leave to read and lay on the table, that they might form part of the System which should finally be adopted.

[Beer, ale, porter, beef, pork, butter, candles of all kinds, cheese, soap, cider, malt, nails, paper, blank books, cabinet wares, cables, cordage, salt, manufactured tobacco, snuff, ironmongery, hats, millenary, tanned leather, shoes and carriages.]

Mr. WHITE observed, that as the season was advanced, and entering fully into the consideration of the several branches of the subject, would possibly protract the debates, so as to defeat the original design; and as the present situation of the manufactures of our country was not fully known to him, and perhaps to many other gentlemen, he was opposed to an incorporation of the additional articles with those at first proposed, for the present.

Mr. THACHER proposed, that the blank annexed to the article "Rum" should be filled up with 15-90ths of a dollar.

Mr. LUCKER, in a speech of considerable length, opposed a sudden decision upon the subject, as the House was not full, the members from Georgia and South Carolina, himself excepted, were absent, and in the article to which it was now proposed to have a duty affixed, those States were as much interested as perhaps any State in the Union.

Mr. MADISON, in a speech of considerable length, entered into the subject of Commerce—its restrictions, &c. with respect to the resolve before the committee, his design was to have proposed a temporary system; he however perceived gentlemen were much divided—he conceived that very powerful motives existed, to induce the adoption of a plan that should come into immediate operation.

Mr. HARTLY, in a short address, advocated the additional articles proposed by Mr. Fitzsimons.

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Mr. BOUDINOT made some general observations, pertinent to the subject, and concluded by enquiring, Why the article of glass was not included, as there are several manufactories of that article already established in the country.

Mr. FITZSIMONS and some other gentlemen added a few more observations, when, on motion of Mr. LEE, the committee rose, and the house adjourned.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10.

The House met and adjourned without doing business.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11.

The house assembled agreeably to adjournment. A petition from the tradesmen, manufacturers, and others, of the town of Baltimore, was presented by Mr Smith, and referred to the committee of the whole house.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole. Mr. PAGE in the chair.

The order of the day being called for by Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Goodhue moved, that an addition to the list of articles already enumerated in the resolve, might be made by the following, viz. anchors, wool-cards, wrought tin-ware, limes and lemons—which was done.

Mr. PARKER arose, and made a motion, that a select committee be appointed to take the important business of a system of revenue into consideration,—prepare a bill and report.

The chairman upon this, observed, that the motion was not in order,—as the house was then in a committee of the whole. It was a previous question whether that committee should rise and the speaker resume the chair.

Upon which the gentleman varied his motion by an amendment, and moved, the committee report, rise, and the speaker resume the

chair, and then that the aforesaid committee be chosen,—the gentleman enforced the propriety of his motion with observations of considerable length; but his voice was so low, that it was impossible to hear him distinctly, so as to continue a connection. Mr. BOUDINOT in a lengthy address combated the idea of Mr. PARKER. He was in favour of an immediate, but temporary system;—as an attempt to form a permanent plan involved an enquiry which comprised a great variety of particulars, that the present object would not admit of: It would be necessary he observed to obtain information from various sources, viz. with respect to the actual imports of the several States. 2dly The produce of the imports realized upon their amount in the respective governments. 3d. Communications from the mercantile interests through the union without the species of information to be derived from the last-mentioned source—gentlemen must be sensible, that very essential errors might be committed.

A permanent system also included the idea of framing suitable provisions for the collection of the duties, which opened a field wide and complicated.

To obviate these difficulties, the gentleman proposed that a simple temporary system should be adopted—that the mode of collection should be conformable to the laws already extant in the several States for that purpose; in those States where no such laws had existed, those of the next State should be adopted. Col. BLAND, rose next. He was likewise opposed to the motion of the Hon. Mr. PARKER,—as involving the idea of permanency:—He therefore proposed, that the gentleman should withdraw his motion, in which case he was prepared to introduce a resolve which in his opinion would expedite the business before the committee, which was, that it should now be determined, whether the System should be a temporary, or a permanent one. A previous resolution of this kind, the Col. observed, would relieve the minds of many gentlemen, who in that case, would be prepared for filling up the blanks.

Mr. PARKER, however, did not see proper to withdraw his motion, but re-inforced it with additional observations.

Mr. MADISON was opposed to Mr. Parker's motion. He said, that as the Committee had made some progress in the business now under consideration, and gentlemen appeared to be principally divided as to the expediency of a temporary or permanent System. It would in his opinion rather protract than expedite decisions, to throw back upon a select committee the investigation of the subject, especially as it was certain, that the same enquiries might now be made, with facility, which would arise after a select committee had prepared a draught to submit to the consideration of the whole. He was therefore opposed to the rising of the Committee.

Several other gentlemen spoke upon the question, but on a division of the house it was finally lost.

This motion being negatived, Col. BLAND's proposition respecting taking the sense of the Committee, whether the System should be temporary, was taken up.

Mr. THACHER observed, that it was impossible to determine with accuracy, as to the duration of a System, before it was formed—when once completed, the House could give as long, and as short a period for operation, as should appear most eligible. Should the System appear to be good, no person would wish it a temporary existence: Should it not prove salutary, no assigned date for its termination would warrant its being continued beyond experience of its beneficial effects. He was therefore for leaving the period to an after consideration.

Mr. BOUDINOT was in favour of the temporary resolve of Col. Bland, as on the contrary sentiment, the bill to be framed must go to making provision for the collection of the duties, as also to a continental Judicial System, an object of such magnitude, as would preclude any decisive measures till such time as will entirely disappoint all our expectations of the immediate advantages that would result from a temporary system, which the gentleman observed, might be matured in two or three days.

Mr. MADISON, Mr. LEE, and other gentlemen spoke upon the motion, which was finally withdrawn.

Mr. MADISON then brought forward a motion to this effect,—That it is the opinion of this Committee, that a Committee of the House ought to be appointed to prepare the draught of a Bill to regulate the collection of Duties on Imports and Tonnage within the United States. This motion was adopted.

On motion of Mr. LEE, it was resolved, to proceed in filling up the articles in the original resolution.

Mr. MADISON proposed 15-90ths of a dollar on Rum. Mr. SHERMAN, as an amendment, proposed 15 cents.

Another gentleman proposed 10 cents; but without the question's being put, the Committee, moved for by Mr. Maddison, was elected, and consisted of a member from each State.

Adjourned to Monday, 11 o'clock.

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1789.

The House met agreeably to adjournment. The additional Rules and Orders reported by the Committee appointed for that purpose, were taken into consideration—some of them amended and accepted—others recommitted.

A standing Committee of Elections is enjoined by one of these Rules—and accordingly the House appointed this Committee, which consists of Mr. CLYMER, Mr. AMES, Mr. BENSON, Mr. HUNTINGTON, Mr. CARROL, Mr. WHITE, and Mr. GILMAN.

A Committee was also appointed to confer with the Committee of the Senate, upon the subject of arrangements for the reception of the President and Vice-President, and consisted of Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. P. MULLENBURG, Mr. BENSON, and Mr. GRIFFIN.

Mr. BURKE presented a petition from the Shipwrights of South-Carolina, praying the attention of Congress to their situation, and that a Navigation Act might be passed in favour of American vessels—this was referred to a Committee of the whole.

Adjourned.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14.

Met agreeably to adjournment. A Bill for regulating the manner of taking the oath prescribed by the Constitution, was read the first time.

The articles of the additional rules, which were recommitted yesterday, were read as amended by the Committee and accepted.

Order of the day being called for, the House went into a Committee of the whole.

Mr. PAGE in the Chair. Mr. LAWRENCE proposed that for the article of rum in the resolve before the Committee, ardent spirits, Jamaica proof, should be substituted; this was afterwards changed to distilled spirits, Jamaica proof, as it now stands.

Mr. BLAND, after adverting to a temporary system, as the most eligible, enforced the idea upon the impropriety of taxing several articles in the resolve, which were absolutely essential to the formation of many species of tools made use of by our manufacturers; and in order that Congress might have time, properly to discriminate between the articles, and form a complete and permanent system, he introduced a motion to this effect, That Congress pass a law, authorizing and establishing the collection of import thro' the States, agreeably to the revenue laws extant in the several governments, and that the officers be subject to the same regulations and penalties.

Mr. FLOYD observed, that the subject naturally divided itself into two parts, general and specified articles: The latter were too numerous, he conceived, to be taken up collectively: The question was, How shall we discriminate? he would propose therefore, to expedite the business, that the articles should be taken individually, and determined upon—and if gentlemen would bring the question to this issue, whether, considering the particular situation of the country, it would be advisable, thus to tax the respective articles? A proper distinction would be made, and the business brought to a speedy determination.

Mr. BOUDINOT seconded the motion of Mr. Bland. Mr. MADISON objected to its introduction, as not being in order. Col. BLAND observed, that the present object of the Committee, a permanent system, would in all probability subject the States to a loss of two or three hundred thousand pounds.

The Chairman observing that he considered the motion as not in order. It was withdrawn by Mr. Bland.

Mr. LAWRENCE, upon the subject of filling up the blanks, proposed twelve cents to fill that annexed to distilled spirits, Jamaica proof: He observed, that low duties would be more certainly collected, as experience had verified, that high duties held out powerful temptations to smuggling—rendered a more vigorous mode of collection necessary, which again was proportionably expensive, and eventually diminished the produce of the revenue, below the amount of moderate duties.

Mr. FITZSIMONS was in favour of 15 cents. Mr. MADISON proposed 10 cents.

Mr. BOUDINOT 15, which was finally voted, and 12 cents per gallon on all other spirits.

Upon the article of molasses, Mr. LAWRENCE proposed two cents per gallon.

Mr. MADISON eight cents per gallon. Mr. PARKER made some observations which we could not distinctly hear.

Mr. LAWRENCE observed, that two cents were in his opinion, quite high enough, in proportion to the prime cost, the pre-conceived ideas of the duty on that article, and its being a raw material, the basis of an extensive manufacture.

Mr. MADISON continued, however, in favour of eight cents, and made some allusions to the pernicious effects resulting from the use of spirituous liquors:—He reprobated the idea of a draw-back, as opening a door to various species of fraud.

Mr. Fitzsimons was also in favour of eight cents,—upon similar principles.

Mr. GOODHUE, was totally opposed to so high a duty, which amounted to nearly 50 per cent:—He observed, that the importation of molasses was an important branch of commerce and principally to the Eastern States; that independent of its being a great article of manufacture, it was used by many persons as a necessary of life, being a substitute for sugar, and mixed with water, for beer: That so high a duty would operate injuriously towards a very numerous class of people; besides being attended with the most pernicious consequences to the navigation and fishery of the eastern States.

Mr. MADISON observed, that if the duty on molasses was to be complained of, where that was used in lieu of sugar, the duty on sugar would be a counter balance to it.

Mr. CLYMER, in support of an high duty, introduced the policy of discouraging the use of spirituous and encouraging that of malt liquors.

Mr. AMES combated the laying so high a duty, as it was beyond the ratio that gentlemen could possibly think eligible as a general idea,—as it operated as a tax upon a raw material, which proved to some of the States a very important branch of manufactures; as it would strike a mortal blow to this manufacture—prove highly injurious to the eastern fisheries and to their navigation, which was very extensively employed by this business: Molasses was a meagre refuse article in the islands, tho' valuable to us; the refuse of our fish and lumber were the great remittances for it; when imported and manufactured, from the cheapness at which it could be afforded, it forced a sale even in the British islands. It was the offensive design of gentlemen, to raise a revenue—this excessive duty would annihilate an extensive source of revenue: It would prove suddenly destructive to great property appropriated to that business, and effectually destroy a very important manufacture; for these reasons (and for many others, which Mr. AMES offered, but which time will not permit us to transcribe) he was decidedly opposed to so high a duty.

Mr. MADISON proposed to amend his motion by making the duty seven cents.

Mr. PARTRIDGE, Mr. BOUDINOT and Mr. FITZSIMONS, severally spoke upon the subject—when the vote being called for, the duty on molasses was laid at six cents per gallon.

- On Madeira wine, 33 cents pr. gallon.
On all other wines, 20 cents pr. gallon.
On brown sugar, at one cent pr. lb.
On loaf sugar, three cents pr. lb.
On all other sugars, one and half cent pr. lb.
On coffee, two and half cents pr. lb.
The Committee then rose—The Speaker resumed the chair—and the House adjourned.

(To be continued.)

A very incompetent judgment only, can be formed upon the proceedings of Congress thus far: The debates have hitherto been indefinite and so far, uninteresting. It is the part of true patriotism to wait patiently the decision of our civil fathers, when the public affairs are in such a train as to present only, a choice of difficulties.

THE PROGRESS.

Excessive Duties produce a rigorous collection—odious revenue Officers—Smuggling—COMBINATIONS—Insurrections—Treasons—Rebellions—Civil War—Loss of Constitution—Loss of Freedom.

FUR TRADE.

The following estimate of Furs, exported from Canada, in the years 1785, 1787 and 1788, may perhaps suggest to the "POWERS THAT BE" some important ideas; it is authentic.

Table with columns for Year (1786, 1787, 1788), Currency (F. 74,753.19, F. 157,278.12), and various fur types (Beaver skins, Martens, Minks, Fishers, Foxes, Deer skins, Indian dress deers leather, Muttons, Raccoons, Cat skins, Open do., Wolves, Elks or moose, Wolverens, Panthers, Weasels, Seal, Catarrum).

EXPORTS from QUEBEC in 1786-1788—md 1788.