



CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THURSDAY, JUNE 3.

THE report of the committee on the petition of J. F. Amelung on motion of Mr. Carroll was read the second time this report was in favor of the petitioner so far as to loan him 8000 dollars.

Mr. Carroll gave a history of the rise and progress of this gentleman's exertions in establishing an American glass manufactory—it commenced in 1775; he brought into the country upwards of 200 persons, and has expended in this undertaking 20,000 pounds. Owing to a variety of accidents, and particularly the extraordinary rise in the price of grain, he now finds himself greatly embarrassed in prosecuting the business, but if he can be so far patronized by government as to be favored with a loan of 3 or 4000 pounds, it would afford him such relief, as would enable him to surmount every difficulty.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) and Mr. Sherman objected to the report of the committee, they doubted the constitutionality of the power of Congress to loan the money of their constituents; they objected to it on account of the precedent it would establish, and supposed that the encouragement and assistance would be applied for with more propriety to the State government.

Mr. Carroll made some observations in reply to these remarks. Mr. Vining said he had no idea of losing a good thing left a precedent should be established, which no future circumstances might probably call into use. He then adverted to the extraordinary and peculiar circumstances of this gentleman, and on general national principles contended that it was conformable to the dictates of the soundest policy to encourage and assist the undertaking.—He said that the constitution does not prohibit the government from loaning money, it is a mere act of legislation, and Congress may do it, or let it alone. Congress are vested with a general power to encourage the arts and manufactures of the United States; this is one mode of affording this encouragement; he enlarged on the importance of manufactures and that of making glass in particular, by which if duly encouraged immense sums of money are prevented from being sent out of the country.

Mr. Boudinot, who was one of the committee which brought in the report, gave an account of the manufactory, and said he had seen of the glass made in it, which was superior to any ever before produced in America.—He contended that Congress had a right by the constitution to loan the money; he cited several instances in point—which, said he, are unconstitutional acts if this proposition is.—He expatiated on the merits of the petitioner, in embarking such large property in prosecuting a business of so general utility, and pointed out the consequences which would result from a failure of this application, which would be greatly injurious to the petitioner and the public.

Mr. Sherman read that part of the constitution which he conceived was contrary to the proposition in the report.

Mr. Sedgwick said he had no doubt of the constitutionality of the measure in granting the money, still he doubted the eligibility of any partial application of the public patronage and encouragement; he mentioned the various manufacturing enterprises on foot through the United States, many of these are languishing said he, for want of that encouragement which is now solicited in this particular instance—he said he had no doubt of the merits of the petitioner; and although he was in favor of giving all due encouragement to industrious foreigners, yet he doubted the propriety of doing this in a partial manner, and in preference to the citizens of the country; if the bill should be brought forward on general principles said he, it should receive my hearty support, so far as the circumstances of the country would admit.

Mr. Ames entered into a particular discussion of the subject of manufactures, dilated on their utility and importance in the United States; he pointed out the difficulties which attended setting them up in this country, from the competition they have to contend with of foreign articles—he then stated the principles on which public patronage ought to be extended to undertakings in this line—his idea was that such as are of general advantage to the public, should be so far encouraged as to place the manufactures upon terms of equality with foreign manufactures of a similar nature; he did not conceive the present circumstances of the United States would justify or enable them to undertake to afford this encouragement generally, but he supposed that there was a propriety in taking up particular branches, and determining what particular aid they shall receive.

Mr. Jackson was opposed to the report, he was averse to any partial encouragement—particularly of foreigners in preference to our own citizens, whose circumstances are in many respects truly deplorable from the failure of manufactures, which had long been established in the country; he observed that our creditors had a prior claim on the revenue, and that the measure was precipitate.—Gentlemen are not content said he with placing the American tonnage in a hot bed, but they are now for placing manufactures also in one; he supposed the State of Maryland would derive great advantage from this undertaking and that they would encourage the petitioner without doubt; he wished the gentleman success, but was for referring him to the State legislature.

Mr. Sency supported the report of the committee and urged the propriety of the application to the general government, as the undertaking is of general utility, and such extraordinary exertions merited the notice patronage and assistance of the United States at large.

Mr. Gerry after a variety of other observations, said the agricultural and commercial interests of the United States had found warm advocates in the House; manufactures had found some friends, but he believed, not to so great a degree as the other two; he wished that some mode could be devised to unite in measures to promote the interests of all three.—He concluded by saying that as there appeared to be a variety of sentiments on the subject, he wished the house should go into a committee of the whole on the business.—Mr. Stone made some observations in favor of the report.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) replied to the several speakers in favor of the report he reprobated the resolution, as unconstitutional—as opening a door to innumerable applications—he contended that there was no probability of effectual and certain aid to the manufacture, as it is acknowledged that 20,000 pounds has been employed in the undertaking, and yet it is in danger of failing; he then read an advertisement of Mr. Amelung in which he says he is still able to furnish the public with glass. He observed that from all circumstances he was led to conclude that if the money was once granted, it would never be again realized by the government, as in case of accidents which are very probable in that business, Congress will be applied to, on account of misfortunes to remit their demand. This report was negatived.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7.

A message was received from the Senate, informing the House that they do not concur in the bill for allowing commutation to the representatives of David Gould, deceased; and that they have passed the bill for establishing the Post-Office, and Post-Roads of the United States, with amendments.

In committee of the whole on the Residence Bill.

Mr. Sherman's motion for striking out Potowmac, and inserting Baltimore was further debated.

Mr. Gerry, Mr. Livermore, Mr. Sedgwick, Mr. Smith, (S. C.) Mr. Burke, and Mr. Ames, were the speakers against the Potowmac. Mr. White, Mr. Vining, and Mr. Madison in favor of it.

The question being at length put, the motion for striking out was negatived—37 to 23.

Mr. Sedgwick moved to strike out Potowmac, and to insert Delaware—this was negatived without debate.

Mr. Sency, after premising several observations, moved that the permanent residence should be fixed between Potowmac and the Susquehanna—the situation to be determined under certain instructions, by the Commissioners to be appointed by the bill. This motion was negatived without a division.

Mr. Gerry moved to amend the clause, so as to include the town of Alexandria—this was negatived.

A motion made by Mr. Smith (M.) to insert the word "locate," was next put and negatived.—As was also a motion made by Mr. Lawrence, to strike out "1800," and to insert "1795."

Several other motions were put and negatived.

Mr. Burke then moved the following amendment, viz. "Be it further enacted, That the city of New-York shall be the seat of the government of the United States until the day of ; and that thereafter, as soon as the same may be conveniently done, all the offices attached to the seat of the general government of the United States shall be removed to the city of Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania, which shall thenceforth be the seat of said government until the day of "

The committee rose without taking up this proposition—it was therefore laid on the table.

THURSDAY, JULY 8.

A message was received from the Senate, informing the house that they have passed a bill making further provision for the invalid pensioners of the United States; also that they have passed on a bill providing for the issuing certificates to a certain description of invalid officers and do not agree to the same.

In Committee of the whole on the Residence bill.

The amendment proposed by Mr. Burke yesterday, was discussed, and after some debate rejected. 32 to 28.

Mr. Smith South-Carolina, moved that these words "at which place the ensuing session of Congress shall be held" should be erased.

This occasioned further debate—the constitutionality of passing a law on the subject of adjournment was contested by those in opposition to the bill.

The motion being negatived, and the bill being gone through with, the Committee rose and reported the same without any amendment. It was then voted that it should lie on the table till to-morrow.

Mr. Goodhue of the committee appointed to prepare and report amendments to the collection law, brought in a report entitled a bill to regulate the collection of duties imposed by law on goods, wares, and Merchandize, imported into the United States; and on the tonnage of Ships or vessels; which was read and made the order of the day for Monday next.

The amendments of the Senate to the Post-Office bill, were taken into consideration.

The first amendment was to strike out the first and second sections which specified and established the several roads, and to insert a clause empowering the Post-Master-General, under direction of the President of the United States to establish them.

A concurrence in this amendment was opposed by Messrs. Bloodworth, White, Steele, Livermore, Hartley and Gerry.

It was said that it was delegating the power of legislation to the supreme executive in one of the most important points that could be mentioned? The revenue also will centre in the hands of the executive; and in process of time this revenue may be converted into an Engine destructive to the liberties of the United States; for as it is a perpetual law, and as the time may, and probably will come, when the executive may be corrupt; as the revenue increases, the officers of the department will be increased, and we do not know to what extent the consequences may be carried. It is unconstitutional, as that expressly reserves the power of establishing Post-Offices and Post-Roads to the Legislature. It was further observed it would be throwing a burden upon the President which he cannot execute with any convenience to himself, and from his situation, with satisfaction to the people. The representatives of the people who come from all parts of the United States, must be supposed to have a more competent knowledge of the proper places for establishing Post-Roads than the Post-Master-General.

A concurrence was advocated by Mr. Partridge, and Mr. Sedgwick.

It was said that upon an accurate calculation it was found that the roads proposed by the bill as it passed the house, are so numerous that so far from affording a revenue, they will prove a great burden to the United States? The circumstances of the country are continually changing; the seats of government in the several states are removed from their ancient situations to 100 miles distance; to accommodate the people in such cases, old routs must be discontinued and new roads opened, which will be a perpetual source of Legislation and unnecessary expence. This business was left to the Post-Master-General by the late Congress, and very few complaints were heard—the Post-Master-General by his office must be the most competent judge, as the business will be a principal object of his attention, and actual surveys of the roads will be made by his assistant in all parts of the United States; but if the responsibility of this officer is divided into 65 parts, every one of which has its own particular convenience in view, it must appear evident, that all responsibility is entirely dissipated; as to the unconstitutionality, it was said, that the bill proposes no more in the present instance, than is provided for in the other executive departments; the principles of conducting the business are established by the House—the mode of carrying those principles into execution is left with the executive; and this of necessity is done in almost every case whatever.—The House adjourned without coming to a vote.

FRIDAY, JULY 9.

The amendment proposed by the Senate to the bill making further provision for paying the invalid pensioners of the United States was agreed to by the House.

A message was received from the Senate informing the House that they have passed a bill providing for the regulation and government of seamen in the merchants service with amendments, the bill to regulate the trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes—and the bill providing for the settlement of the accounts between the United States and individual States with amendments.

On motion of Mr. Hartley the House took up the residence bill as reported by the committee of the whole.

Mr. Boudinot, after expressing his disapprobation of the bill generally; moved that the Potowmac should be struck out and the Delaware inserted—and called the Ayes and Noes—after some debate this motion was negatived as follow:

AYES.

Messrs. Ames, Benson, Boudinot, Floyd, Foster, Gerry, Goodhue, Grout, Huntington, Hathorne, Leonard, Lawrence, Livermore, Partridge, Renfellaer, Trumbull, Schureman, Sherman, Sylvester, Sturges, Sedgwick, Wadsworth.—22

NOES.

Messrs. Ashe, Baldwin, Bloodworth, Brown, Burke, Cadwallader, Carrol, Clymer, Coles, Contee, Fitzsimons, Gilman, Heister, Hartley, Jackson, Lee, Madison, P. Muhlenberg, Madison, Matthews, Moore, Page, Parker, Scot, Sevier, Sinnickson, Stone, Sumpter, Sney, Smith (M.) Smith (S. C.) Sumpter, Thatcher, Tucker, Vining, White, Williamfon, Wynkoop.—39

Mr. Ames moved to strike out Potowmac, and insert German-town, as the permanent residence. Ayes 22—Noes 39.

Variation; Mr. Gilman, Aye—M. Trumbull, No.

Mr. Smith (M.) moved to strike out Potowmac, and insert, between the Potowmac, and Susquehanna.—Ayes 25—Noes 36.

Variation, Mr. Smith, (M.) Mr. Smith, (S. C.) Mr. Trumbull, and Mr. Thatcher, Ayes.—Mr. Sherman, No.

Mr. Lawrence moved to strike out Potowmac, and insert Baltimore.

Messrs Ames, Benson, Boudinot, Floyd, Foster, Gerry, Goodhue, Grout, Hathorne, Huntington, Lawrence, Leonard, Livermore, Renfellaer, Partridge, Schureman, Sedgwick, Sency, Sherman, Smith Maryland, Smith South-Carolina, Sylvester, Sturges, Thatcher, Trumbull, Wadsworth.—Ayes 26.

NOES.

Messrs Ashe, Baldwin, Bloodworth, Brown, Cadwallader, Carrol, Clymer, Coles, Contee, Fitzsimons, Gilman, Gale, Griffin, Hartley, Heister, Jackson, Lee, Madison, Matthews, Moore, Muhlenberg, Page, Parker, Scot, Sevier, Sumpter, Sinnickson, Steele, Stone, Tucker, Vining, White, Williamfon, Wynkoop.—Noes 34.

Mr. Gerry moved to strike out the words "purchase or"—Ayes 26.—Noes 35.

Mr. Gerry moved to insert a clause, which should limit the Commissioners in the expence, to the sum to be received by donation.—Ayes 26.—Noes 33.

Mr. Lawrence moved to add these words, provided the buildings shall not exceed the sum of — dollars.—Ayes 26.—Noes 32.

Mr. Gerry moved that the words "Three Commissioners, of any two of them," should be struck out. This was negatived.

Mr. Tucker moved that the whole of the 5th section, should be struck out.

AYES.

Messrs Ames, Benson, Bloodworth, Boudinot, Burke, Floyd, Foster, Gerry, Grout, Hathorne, Huntington, Lawrence, Leonard, Livermore, Partridge, Renfellaer, Schureman, Sedgwick, Sency, Sherman, Sylvester, Smith, (M.) Smith, (S. C.) Sturges, Thatcher, Trumbull, Tucker, Wadsworth.—28.

NOES.

Messrs Ashe, Baldwin, Brown, Cadwallader, Carrol, Clymer, Coles, Contee, Fitzsimons, Gale, Gilman, Goodhue, Griffin, Hartley, Heister, Jackson, Lee, Madison, Matthews, Moore, Muhlenberg, Page, Parker, Scot, Sevier, Sinnickson, Steele, Stone, Sumpter, Vining, White, Williamfon, Wynkoop.—33.

Mr. Burke moved to strike out the first Monday in December next, and to insert the first Monday in May, 1792.

The Ayes and Noes as above, except Mr. Goodhue, who was not present.

Mr. Sherman moved that "December" be struck out before the word "next," and May inserted.

The ayes and noes the same as on Mr. Tucker's motion for striking out the 5th section.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) moved that the words "at which place the next session of Congress shall be held"—should be struck out; he moved this amendment he said, on account of the unconstitutionality of the clause.

AYES.

Messrs. Ames, Benson, Boudinot, Burke, Floyd, Foster, Gerry, Grout, Hathorne, Huntington, Lawrence, Leonard, Livermore, Partridge, Renfellaer, Sedgwick, Sency, Sylvester, Sherman, Smith (M.) Smith (S. C.) Sturges, Thatcher, Trumbull, Tucker, Wadsworth.—26.

NOES.

Messrs. Ashe, Baldwin, Bloodworth, Brown, Cadwallader, Carrol, Clymer, Coles, Contee, Fitzsimons, Gale, Gilman, Griffin, Hartley, Heister, Jackson, Lee, Madison, Mathews, Moore, Muhlenberg, Page, Parker, Scot, Sevier, Sinnickson, Steele, Stone, Sumpter, Vining, Williamfon, White, Wynkoop.—33.

Mr. Smith (M.) moved an amendment by which the public officers should be removed to the Potowmac previous to the year 1800, provided the buildings should be prepared for their reception before that time.—Ayes 13.—Noes 48.

It was moved that the bill be read the third time on Monday next; this was negatived.

To-morrow was then proposed; this was negatived.

A motion was made to adjourn—which was also negatived. The bill was then read the third time, and on the question shall the bill pass; the ayes and noes are as follow:

AYES.

Messrs Ashe, Baldwin, Bloodworth, Brown, Cadwallader, Carrol, Clymer, Coles, Contee, Fitzsimons, Gale, Gilman, Hartley, Heister, Jackson, Lee, Madison, Mathews, Moore, Muhlenberg, Page, Parker, Scot, Sevier, Sinnickson, Steele, Stone, Sumpter, Vining, White, Williamfon, Wynkoop.—32.

NOES.

Messrs. Ames, Benson, Boudinot, Burke, Floyd, Foster, Gerry, Goodhue, Gilman, Grout, Hathorne, Huntington, Lawrence, Leonard, Livermore, Partridge, Renfellaer, Schureman, Sedgwick, Sency, Sherman, Sylvester, Smith, (M.) Smith, (S. C.) Sturges, Thatcher, Trumbull, Tucker, Wadsworth.—29.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 11 o'clock.

NEW-YORK, JULY 10, 1790.

The anniversary of independence was celebrated at Philadelphia with peculiar propriety; It being Sunday, the society of the Cincinnati formed themselves into a body, preceded by his Excellency Governor Mifflin their President, and the Hon. Thomas McKean, Vice-President—and being joined by the corporation of the city with other civil and military officers, and a large concourse of respectable citizens—walked in procession to Christ Church, and there attended divine service—Doctor William Smith delivered a most excellent discourse adapted to the occasion. On Monday the society assembled and elected their officers for the ensuing year. Gray's gardens at Philadelphia, exhibited a most splendid scene on the anniversary of independence.

As there is not a surplussage of characters in any country competent to transacting the public affairs thereof—it is evident that the idea of rotation in office, if frequently recurred to, must deprive the people of the best abilities of the country—those matured by experience.

Is it not demonstrable that those parts of the country which are represented by men long conversant in public affairs, must enjoy striking advantages over those whose concerns are committed, on the principles of rotations, to a new set of hands at every election.

While public characters should feel their dependence on the good will, and free suffrages of their constituents—it is little short of political suicide for the people to deprive themselves of approved abilities on the plausible, but oft deceptive principle of rotation.

ARRIVALS SINCE OUR LAST.—NEW-YORK.

Ship America, Sarly, Canton, 4 moths and 22 days. Brig Dartmouth, Summs, Savannah-la-Mar, 40 days. Schooner Letty, Bebec, St. Peters, (New-Fond-Land) 26