

At a SESSION of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of MARYLAND, begun and held at the City of ANNAPOLIS, on Tuesday the seventeenth of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, the following LAWS were enacted.

C H A P. I.

An ACT for the service of the United States.

**W**HEREAS it is represented by congress to this state, that they expect there will be a numerous army of continental troops in the field, during the ensuing campaign, and that it will be necessary to procure large supplies of provisions for their support;

Preamble.

II. Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the governor and the council be authorised and empowered to appoint a discreet and proper person to be agent in each county of this state, to purchase and buy up, for the use of the said army, fat cattle, salted beef, pork, and bacon, upon the best terms they can get the same, not exceeding the rates following, viz. for live steers, or any other cattle, fatted, not exceeding twelve pence by the pound, hides and tallow included as a fifth quarter; for salted beef in barrels, containing two hundred and twenty pounds weight of good well cured beef, not exceeding fifteen pounds per barrel, and so *pro rato* for such beef in any other package; for salted pork in barrels, containing two hundred and twenty pounds weight of good well cured pork, not exceeding twenty pounds per barrel, and so *pro rato* for such pork in any other package; for good bacon, well cured, not exceeding two shillings and six-pence by the pound; that the persons so nominated and appointed have power to appoint assistants.

Governor and council to appoint agents in each county, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That in case the owner of the cattle, and the agent or his assistant, shall differ in opinion as to the estimated weight of such live cattle, the agent or his assistant may call in some indifferent third person to judge of the weight of such cattle, and the determination of such third person on oath, to be administered by such agent or assistant, shall be final.

In case of dispute, a third person may be called in, &c.

IV. And be it enacted, That the governor and council be and are hereby authorised and requested to apply to congress, from time to time, for such supplies of money as may be necessary for making payment for the above articles, and also have full power and authority to draw upon the treasurers of the eastern and western shores, or sheriffs of the counties; if need be, for such sums as may be wanted, to be paid by such sheriffs out of the monies coming to their hands by assessment; and all persons receiving any sums of money on this account, shall give a receipt for the same, specifying for what purpose it was received.

Governor and council to apply to congress for money, &c.