

it relates to the apprehending of suspected persons shall be and the same hereby is continued for six months from and after the twenty-seventh day of April next, unless the war between the United States of America and Great Britain shall sooner cease.

Passed March 24, 1780. See the note to the Act of Assembly passed October 10, 1779, Chapter 865.

CHAPTER CMVII.

AN ACT FOR STRIKING THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS IN BILLS OF CREDIT FOR THE PRESENT SUPPORT OF THE ARMY, AND FOR ESTABLISHING A FUND FOR THE CERTAIN REDEMPTION OF THE SAME AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas every motive and consideration which can interest the citizen and patriot do call upon the representatives of the freemen of this commonwealth to find efficacious and certain means of procuring and providing an immediate supply of provisions and other articles for the support of the army:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas, as well for this purpose as for supplying the good people of Pennsylvania with a medium of commerce and exchange of commodities of a stable and solid nature from the want of which they already suffer; and if the same be not remedied may soon be involved in great difficulties:

(Section III, P. L.) And whereas, in the embarrassments of trade occasioned by the present war it is not to be expected that sufficient quantities of gold and silver money can be procured or retained in this state for the purposes of private dealing or public purchases, and this commonwealth is possessed of a very considerable real estate which may and part of which ought to be considered and pledged as a fund [of credit], for relieving the public necessities and supplying the treasury at this important crisis:

[Section I.] (Section IV, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That bills of credit to the value of one hundred thousand pounds shall be prepared and printed on good strong paper, under the care and direction of Michael Shubart, John Biddle, Paul Cox and Isaac Snowden, of the city of Philadelphia, gentlemen, the cost and expense whereof shall be paid by the treasurer of this commonwealth out of any unappropriated moneys in his hands, and the said bills of credit shall be prepared and made in the manner and form following, that is to say:

Pennsylvania.

This bill of ——— shillings, with annual interest at five per centum shall be redeemed first June, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four in silver dollars at seven shillings and six pence each, by the sale of land according to act of assembly of twenty-fifth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, dated ——— April, 1780.

And the said bills shall have the state arms as an escutcheon in the margin thereof, with such other devices as the said Michael Shubart, John Biddle, Paul Cox and Isaac Snowden shall think proper in order to prevent counterfeits, and to distinguish their several and respective denominations, each of which bills shall be of the several and respective denominations following, and no other, that is to say:

Eight thousand six hundred and ninety-six of the said bills the sum of five shillings each.

Eight thousand six hundred and ninety-six of the said bills the sum of ten shillings each.

Eight thousand six hundred and ninety-six of the said bills the sum of fifteen shillings each.

Eight thousand six hundred and ninety-six of the said bills the sum of twenty shillings each.

Eight thousand six hundred and ninety-six of the said bills the sum of thirty shillings each.

Eight thousand six hundred and ninety-four of the said bills the sum of forty shillings each.

Eight thousand six hundred and ninety-six of the said bills the sum of fifty shillings each.

Eight thousand six hundred and ninety-six of the said bills the sum of sixty shillings each.

And the said Michael Shubart, John Biddle, Paul Cox and Isaac Snowden shall use their best care, attention and diligence during the printing of the said bills, that the number and amount thereof according to the said several denominations be not exceeded nor any clandestine or fraudulent practices used by the printer, his servants or others.

(Section V, P. L.) And for perfecting the said bills according to the true intent and meaning of this act:

[Section II.] Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said bills shall be signed by two of the persons hereafter named, that is to say: Daniel Wister, Levi Budd, Philip Boehm, Robert Cather, Jedediah Snowden, William Lawrence Blair, Elias Lewis Treachel, John Miller, Joseph Watkins, John Knox, Nathan Jones and William Thorne, who are hereby nominated and appointed signers thereof, and who shall, before they receive or sign any of them, take an oath or affirmation to the effect following: "That they shall well and truly sign and number all the bills of credit that shall come to their hands for that purpose, according to the directions of this act and the same so signed and numbered will re-deliver or cause to be re-delivered unto the said Michael Shubart, John Biddle, Paul Cox and Isaac Snowden, or any of them, pursuant to the directions of this act."

(Section VI, P. L.) And to avoid the danger of embezzlement or misapplication of any of the said bills of credit:

[Section III.] Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Michael Shubart, John Biddle, Paul Cox and Isaac Snowden, after the said bills shall be printed, shall deliver from time to time so many of them to the signers aforesaid, to be signed and numbered by parcels as they shall judge proper, for which the said signers, or some of them, shall give their receipts; that is to say, that not more than three thousand pounds of the said bills shall remain in the hands of any two

of such signers at the same time, and so, from time to time, till the whole of the said bills be signed; of all which bills of credit so delivered to be signed and numbered as aforesaid a true account shall be kept by the signers who, upon re-delivery of each or any parcel of the said bills by them signed and numbered, shall have the receipt of the said Michael Shubart, John Biddle, Paul Cox or Isaac Snowden, to charge them before any committee of assembly appointed to inquire into the same.

(Section VII, P. L.) And each of the said signers shall have ten shillings for every thousand of the said bills by them signed and numbered, and no more, and the said Michael Shubart, John Biddle, Paul Cox and Isaac Snowden shall severally receive ten shillings per diem for every day they shall be employed in the said business, and the treasurer of this state shall, for receiving and paying, have and receive ten shillings per hundred pounds for his care and trouble, to be paid out of the moneys struck by virtue of this act.

[Section IV.] (Section VIII, P. L.) And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the bills of credit hereby directed to be prepared and made, as fast as the same shall be signed, numbered and perfected as aforesaid shall be delivered to the said treasurer by the said Michael Shubart, John Biddle, Paul Cox and Isaac Snowden, or any of them, who shall give his receipt or receipts for the same and shall issue and pay the same according to the drafts of the president or vice-president in council for the purposes hereinafter mentioned.

(Section IX, P. L.) And in order that the holders of the bills of credit to be struck and emitted by virtue of this act, which bills are hereby declared to be at the rate of seven shillings and six pence for a milled dollar of the Spanish colonies in America weighing seventeen pennyweights and six grains, may have the fullest and most perfect assurance that the same bills shall be redeemed, together with an annual interest of five per centum on or before the first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, at the full price at which they are delivered out in pursuance of this act, without any deduction or delay.

[Section V.] (Section X, P. L.) Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That, together with the guarantee of the

honor and faith of Pennsylvania, which is hereby given, so much and such part of the lots and lands lying and being within the city of Philadelphia belonging to the commonwealth and the tract of land known by the name of the Province island, situate in the township of Kingsessing, in the county of Philadelphia, shall be, and hereby are pledged and declared to be the fund out of which the bills of credit aforesaid to the amount of one hundred thousand pounds and the interest aforesaid shall be redeemed and cancelled, within the term aforesaid.

[Section VI.] (Section XI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That for this purpose within the term aforesaid, the president or vice-president in council, shall expose to public sale and sell such and so many of the said lots and lands in the said city, and the said island except the hospital erected on the said island and six acres of land thereto appurtenant and adjacent, and on payment of the purchase money shall make good and effectual grants for the same under the great seal in fee simple to the purchasers thereof without other reservation than one acre out of each grant, if demanded. And the said president or vice-president in council shall receive in payment for such real estate so sold as aforesaid the bills of credit issued by virtue of this act, or such Spanish milled dollars as aforesaid, or an equal sum in gold or silver, and no other money whatever, and with the gold and silver so received shall redeem the said bills of credit, and all of them which shall be brought in within nine months after the same shall be called in by public notice published, and continued for and during four weeks in the public newspapers of this and the adjoining states.

[Section VII.] (Section XII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said bills of credit shall be and hereby are appropriated towards procuring, purchasing and collecting wheat, flour and other goods directed to be purchased in and by an act of this session of assembly, entitled "An act for procuring a supply of provisions and other necessaries for the use of the army,"¹ and for such other uses and purposes as shall be necessary for the support of the army.

¹ Passed March 23, 1780, Chapter 905.

(Section XIII, P. L.) And whereas it has been the earnest desire of the good people of Pennsylvania that all possible justice should be done to the possessors of the bills of credit which have been issued by the honorable Congress, and to the public creditors who have advanced great sums of money on loan but the attainment thereof has not been within the reach of any particular state.

[Section VIII.] (Section XIV, P. L.) It is therefore declared by the representatives aforesaid on behalf of Pennsylvania, that this state will most cheerfully concur in and adopt such reasonable and salutary measures as may be proposed by Congress and adopted by the several states for the funding and redemption of its full proportion and share of the bills of credit and loan office certificates which have been issued by Congress.

(Section XV, P. L.) And whereas, the honorable the Congress by their act of the twenty-fifth day of February last, have determined to leave in the treasury of the several states two-third parts of the taxes by them called for to be raised monthly for eight months, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty, in order to enable the said states to purchase certain supplies of provisions and other goods, apportioned on and requested of the said states respectively for the public service, and the money arising thereon amounting to near twelve millions of dollars will not be necessary for that purpose, in case such supplies can be otherwise procured.

[Section IX.] (Section XVI, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the bills of credit of the United States of America, which shall come into the hands of the treasurer of this state in payment of the said two-thirds of the state taxes to be levied monthly for eight months in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty, and bills of credit issued by Congress equal to the amount of the two-thirds of such taxes shall not be again issued, but shall be detained in the said treasurer's hands subject to the directions of the house of assembly.

[Section X.] (Section XVI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the publication of this act, if any person or persons shall, within this state or

elsewhere, prepare, engrave, stamp, forge or print the counterfeit resemblance of any paper bills of credit which shall be issued, emitted and made in virtue of this act, or shall counterfeit or sign the name or names of the signer or signers of the said bills of credit to such counterfeit bills of credit with an intention that such counterfeit bills of credit shall be passed in payments, or received as genuine and good bills, whether the same be so passed or received or not; or if any person or persons shall in this state pass, pay or tender in payment any such counterfeit money, or deliver the same to any other person or persons with an intention that they be passed, paid or received as and for good and genuine, knowing the same to be forged or counterfeited, every such person being thereof legally convicted or attainted in any court of oyer and terminer within this state by verdict of a jury or confession of the party offending, or being indicted thereof shall stand mute or not directly answer to the indictment, or shall peremptorily challenge more than the number of twenty persons legally returned to be the jury for the trial of such offender, shall be adjudged a felon, and shall suffer death without benefit of clergy. And if any person or persons shall counterfeit any of the said bills of credit by altering the denomination thereof with design to increase the value of such bills or shall utter such bills knowing them to be so counterfeited or altered as aforesaid, and shall be thereof legally convicted in any court of record in this State, such person or persons shall be sentenced to the pillory, and have both his or her ears cut off and nailed to the pillory, and be publicly whipped on his or her bare back with thirty-nine lashes well laid on, and moreover every such offender shall forfeit the sum of two thousand pounds, lawful money of Pennsylvania to be levied on his or her lands and tenements, goods and chattels, the one moiety to the use of the state, and the other moiety to the discoverer; and the offender shall pay to the party grieved double the value of the damages thereby sustained, together with the costs and charges of prosecution; and in case the offender hath not sufficient to satisfy the discoverer for his or her damages and charges, and to pay the forfeiture aforesaid, in such case

the offender shall, by order of the court where he or she shall be convicted, be sold as a servant for any term not exceeding seven years for satisfaction.

Passed March 25, 1780. See the note to the Act of Assembly passed March 5, 1725-26, Chapter 289, and the Acts of Assembly passed December 23, 1780, Chapter 924; April 10, 1781, Chapter 942; June 25, 1781, Chapter 948.