

Laws of the First Sitting of the Fifth General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which met at Philadelphia on Tuesday, the twenty-third day of October, in the year 1780.

CHAPTER CMXX.

AN ACT TO SETTLE AND ADJUST THE ACCOUNTS OF THE TROOPS OF THIS STATE IN THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas, from a variety of causes, the United States have not been able to comply with their engagements heretofore made to the officers and private men of the Pennsylvania line, which hath occasioned great injury to those troops, to whose virtuous exertions America is much indebted:

[Section I.] (Section II, 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 the supreme executive council be and they are hereby authorized and directed to appoint three auditors to settle the depreciation of the pay accounts of all the officers and private men of the Pennsylvania line from the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, to the first day of August, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, and the said auditors, or any two of them, are hereby empowered and directed to estimate in specie all sums of continental money received by the said officers and private men on account of their pay within the period aforesaid agreeable to a scale of depreciation hereinafter mentioned and contained.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said auditors, or any two

of them, are hereby empowered and directed to give to the officers and private men to whom pay on such settlement as aforesaid shall be found due, certificates specifying the sums due in specie, which certificates shall be received and considered as equal to specie, in payment of the estates hereinafter mentioned and directed to be sold.

[Section III.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all confiscated estates not already sold or appropriated to public use shall, on the first day of July next, or as soon after as may be convenient, be disposed of at public sale for the highest price, which sale the supreme executive council are hereby directed to order the agents for confiscated estates to make, giving due notice thereof, and the said agents are hereby directed to receive in payment for the estates which they shall sell as aforesaid, specie or bills of credit of this state equivalent thereto, or the certificates aforesaid, which sales shall be made upon the same terms of payment as have heretofore been directed in the sale of other confiscated estates.

[Section IV.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in order to prevent the certificates of the private men of the line aforesaid from being counterfeited, or becoming objects of speculation, no transfer or assignment of the same shall be good and valid in law, unless attested by the officer commanding the regiment to which said privates shall belong.

[Section V.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case the possessor or possessors of the said certificates shall think proper to purchase unlocated lands belonging to this state with the same, then and in such case it shall and may be lawful for the commissioners or other proper officers of the land office, so soon as the said office shall be opened by law, and they are hereby directed to receive the said certificates so unpaid equal in value to specie in payment for the lands so purchased from the said land office, which lands purchased with and paid for in the certificates aforesaid are to be rated and granted at the same price at which unlocated lands shall or may be rated and

granted to any person or persons tendering gold or silver or currency equivalent thereto. .

[Section VI.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said auditors shall, in like manner, settle and adjust the accounts of all officers and private men of the line aforesaid who have fallen or died in the service during the said period; and their widows and children shall be entitled to such certificates and to all the benefits and advantages hereby granted to the officers and private men now in the said line.

[Section VII.] (Section VIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the officers and private men of the state navy now in actual service shall and are hereby declared to be equally entitled to all benefits and allowances extended to the Pennsylvania line by this act, and all officers and soldiers of this state taken prisoners in the actual service of this or the United States shall likewise be considered as being within the intent and meaning of this act so far as to be entitled to all the benefits and advantages hereby granted and extended to the officers and privates of the Pennsylvania line aforesaid.

[Section VIII.] (Section IX, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the auditors aforesaid previous to their entering on the duties required of them by this act, shall severally take the following oath or affirmation, to wit:

“I, A. B., do swear or affirm (as the case may be) that I will well and truly perform all and singular the duties required of me by the act, entitled ‘An act to settle and adjust the accounts of the troops of this state (meaning Pennsylvania) in the service of the United States and for other purposes therein mentioned,’ to the best of my knowledge and abilities, without partiality or respect to any person or persons whatsoever.”

And the auditors aforesaid are hereby fully authorized and directed to settle the aforesaid accounts upon oath or affirmation, which oath or affirmation shall be by them administered.

[Section IX.] (Section X, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this or any future assembly,

notwithstanding the provision made as aforesaid, may or shall, if they think proper, call in all such certificates given and not redeemed as aforesaid and pay off the same in specie or other current money equivalent.

[Section X.] (Section XI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case any of the confiscated estates above mentioned shall be sold and paid for in specie or other current money, then the agents aforesaid shall pay the said moneys so received to the treasurer of this state, which he is hereby directed to reserve for redeeming the certificates aforesaid, which shall remain unpaid in such manner as the general assembly shall order and direct. And all certificates received by the agents aforesaid and commissioners of the land office by virtue of this act shall be by them delivered to the treasurer aforesaid, who is hereby directed to keep the same, to be cancelled and destroyed in such maner as the general assembly shall order and direct.

[Section XI.] (Section XII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the following scale of depreciation shall be the rule by which the said auditors shall be governed in the settlement aforesaid:

One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-seven.

January, one and a half.
 February, one and a half.
 March, two.
 April, two and a half.
 May, two and a half.
 June, two and a half.
 July, three.
 August, three.
 September, three.
 October, three,
 November, three.
 December, four.

One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Eight.

January, four.
 February, five.

March, five.
April, six.
May, five.
June, four.
July, four.
August, five.
September, five.
October, five.
November, six.
December, six.

One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-nine.

January, eight.
February, ten.
March, ten and a half.
April, seventeen.
May, twenty-four.
June, twenty.
July, nineteen.
August, twenty.
September, twenty-four.
October, thirty.
November, thirty-eight and an half.
December, forty-one and an half.

One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty.

January, forty and an half.
February, forty-seven and an half.
March, sixty-one and an half.
April, sixty-one and an half.
May, fifty-nine.
June, sixty-one and an half.
July, sixty-four and an half.

[Section XII.] (Section XIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the auditors aforesaid shall be entitled to receive the same pay and allowance as the auditors of this state appointed by the legislature for the settlement of the public accounts.

[Section XIII.] (Section XIV, P. L.) And be it further en-

acted by the authority aforesaid, That printed certificates shall be provided by direction of the supreme executive council in such manner and form as they shall judge necessary and proper and delivered to the auditors aforesaid, to be by them applied to the uses and purposes hereinbefore directed.

Passed December 18, 1780. See the Acts of Assembly passed April 10, 1781, Chapter 941; October 1, 1781, Chapter 955; March 12, 1783, Chapter 1007; March 21, 1783, Chapter 1024; March 25, 1786, Chapter 1219. Recorded L. B. No. 1, p. 404, &c.

CHAPTER CMXXI.

A SUPPLEMENT TO AN ACT ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR FUNDING AND REDEEMING THE BILLS OF CREDIT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND FOR PROVIDING MEANS TO BRING THE PRESENT WAR TO AN HAPPY CONCLUSION." ¹

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas it is the duty of the representatives of the freemen of this state to provide adequate funds for redeeming and cancelling the eighth part of the new bills of credit emitted or to be emitted by Congress in consequence of their act of the eighteenth day of March last, amounting to one million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the value of four shillings and six pence sterling each, or so many thereof as may be issued, together with the interest thereon, to accrue as mentioned in the act to which this act is a supplement:

Therefore:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it 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 the sum of ninety-three thousand six hundred and forty pounds ten shillings shall be raised, levied and paid in each and every [of] the next [six] succeeding years on the persons and estates of the inhabitants of the

¹ Passed June 1, 1780, Chapter 912.