

CHAPTER CMLV.

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE ACT ENTITLED "AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACT ENTITLED 'AN ACT FOR THE MORE EFFECTUAL SUPPLY AND HONORABLE REWARD OF THE PENNSYLVANIA TROOPS, IN THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,'" AND THE ACT ENTITLED "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."¹

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the United States, in Congress assembled, by their act of the thirteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, resolved and recommended to the several states in the words following. That is to say: "That it be and hereby is recommended to the several states to which the officers of the hospital and medical department now in service, respectively, belong, or of which they are or were inhabitants, to settle the accounts of the said officers for depreciation, on the principles established by the resolution of Congress of the tenth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, and to make provision for paying the balances that may be found due in the same manner with other officers of the line:"

Therefore, in compliance with the act of Congress aforesaid:

[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 officers of the hospital and medical department now in the service of the United States, and who are citizens of this state, shall be and they are hereby entitled to all the emoluments and benefits, to all intents and purposes, which the military commissioned officers, chaplains and regimental surgeons of the Pennsylvania line are entitled to under the act, entitled "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,"² passed the eighteenth day of December, one thousand seven hundred and

¹ Passed April 10, 1781, Chapter 941.

² Passed December 18, 1780; Chapter 920.

eighty, and the act, entitled "An act to amend the act, entitled "An act for the more effectual supply and honorable reward of the Pennsylvania troops, in the service of the United States of America,"¹ passed the tenth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, and shall be entitled to half pay during life, they, the said officers of the hospital and medical department, now in the service of the United States, and who are or were inhabitants of this state, continuing in service during the present war with Great Britain.

(Section III, P. L.) Provided always, That every such officer of the hospital and medical department shall be liable to be called into actual service by the supreme executive council of this state, at any time thereafter, and if any of the aforesaid officers on half pay shall neglect or refuse to go and continue in said service, when called to it as aforesaid, such half pay shall, from the time of such neglect or refusal, cease and determine, anything to the contrary in any law of this state notwithstanding.

(Section IV, P. L.) And whereas, it may be difficult for the auditors appointed, or to be appointed, by the supreme executive council to ascertain the rights of the officers of the hospital and medical department who shall claim the benefits and emoluments granted by this act:

Therefore:

[Section II.] Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the supreme executive council of this state shall and they are hereby authorized and empowered to hear and determine upon the respective claims of every person who may apply for the benefits and emoluments granted by this act, and to dismiss every such claim or issue an order (as the case may require), directing the auditors to settle and adjust the account or accounts of the said officer or officers without delay; and thereupon, and not otherwise, the said auditors shall proceed in the same manner as is directed respecting the military commissioned officers, chaplains, and regimental surgeons of the Pennsylvania line by the acts to which this is a supplement.

(Section VI, P. L.) And whereas, some doubts have arisen

¹Ante.

whether officers and soldiers who have fallen in battle, or were taken by the enemy and were exchanged, or died in captivity before the passing of the act, entitled "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,"¹ or their widows and children were entitled to the benefits of the said act.

For remedy whereof:

[Section III.] Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all officers and privates of this state, whether of the state regiments, flying camp or militia, made prisoners in the actual service of this or any of the United States, whensoever exchanged, or their legal representatives shall be and hereby are entitled to receive the full depreciation of their pay to the time of such exchange. And the auditors appointed, or who hereafter may be appointed, by the supreme executive council to settle the depreciation accounts are hereby authorized and required to proceed and settle their accounts in the manner directed for the adjusting and settling the accounts of the troops of this state now in service.

[Section IV.] (Section VIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the widows and children of the officers of the said regiments, known by the name of the state regiments of this state or of the flying camp of this state, who have fallen in battle or died in captivity, shall be and are hereby entitled to receive the half pay of such officers from and since the time of their death, for and during the time, in the manner and under the restrictions mentioned in the fourth, fifth, seventeenth and eighteenth sections of the act, entitled "An act for the more effectual supply and honorable reward of the Pennsylvania troops in the army of the United States of America,"² passed the first day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, and all arrearages of pay due to said officers and depreciation on their pay accounts to be adjusted and settled as directed in the foregoing clause.

Passed October 1, 1781. Recorded L. B. No. 1, p. 460, etc. See the Act of Assembly passed March 27, 1790, Chapter 1493.

¹ Ante.

² Passed March 1, 1780, Chapter 380.