

CONGRESS.

IN SENATE.

Friday, January 3.

A motion was made and seconded, that the Secretary of the Treasury lay before the Senate the following returns, to wit:

A statement of the goods, wares and merchandise, exported from the several States from the 1st of July, 1792, to the 1st of July 1793, specifying the quantities and value of each kind, and the several countries to which the same have respectively been exported.

A statement of the goods, wares and merchandise, imported into the several States for the same period, specifying the quantities, and the prime cost, and dutied value of each kind, and the several countries from which the same have respectively been imported.

A statement of the tonnage of foreign vessels entered into the several States during the same period, specifying the several countries to which the said vessels respectively belong.

A statement of the tonnage of the United States' vessels, entered into the several States during the same period, distinguishing those employed in the fisheries, in the coasting and in the foreign trade, and specifying the several countries from which the said vessels employed in said trade came.

ORDERED, That this motion lie for consideration.

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock on Monday morning.

Monday, January 6.

The Senate met agreeable to adjournment and on motion,

Adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Tuesday, January 7.

The following written messages were received from the President of the United by Mr. Dandridge his Secretary.

United States, January 7, 1793.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives,

Experience has shewn that it would be useful to have an officer particularly charged, under the direction of the Department of War, with the duties of receiving, safe-keeping, and distributing the public supplies, in all cases in which the laws and the course of service do not devolve them upon other officers; and also with that of superintending in all cases the issues in detail of supplies, with power, for that purpose, to bring to account all persons entrusted to make such issues, in relation thereto.

An establishment of this nature, by securing a regular and punctual accountability for the issues of public supplies, would be a great guard against abuse, would tend to ensure their due application, and to give public satisfaction on that point.

I therefore recommend to the consideration of Congress, the expediency of an establishment of this nature, under such regulations as shall appear to them advisable.

G. WASHINGTON.

United States, January 7, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives,

I lay before you an official statement of the expenditure to the end of the year 1793, from the sum of ten thousand dollars, granted to defray the contingent expenses of government, by an act passed on the 26th of March, 1790.

G. WASHINGTON.

The messages and paper referred to in the last recited message, were severally read.

ORDERED, That they lie for consideration.

After the consideration of the executive business,

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Wednesday, January 8.

On motion,

ORDERED, That the message of the President of the United States of the 7th instant, respecting the usefulness of an officer particularly charged with the duties of receiving, safe-keeping and distributing the public supplies in certain cases, be referred to Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Taylor and Messrs. Dudley, to consider and report thereon to the Senate.

Congress of the United States.

House of Representatives.

Monday, Jan. 13.

A report was received from the Secretary of the Treasury, containing a statement of the actual tonnage employed between the United States and foreign countries, for one year ending Sept. 30, 1793.

Mr. Sheburne called up the petition of Thomas Manning, presented last week—he observed that the facts set forth in the petition were established by documents which accompanied it. That the petition originated in a contract made by the petitioner with an agent of the French government in Martinique; that altho' that government had recognized the powers of their agent, and the performance of the services which were the ground of the contract, they had refused to fulfill it, but by a payment of assignats, instead of specie, which had been particularly specified.—

He observed, had the contract been made with an individual, a process in a judicial court would have procured an indemnity, but it was with a nation, over which judicial courts had no controul; the petitioner therefore could derive no redress but from the justice of his country, which was bound to protect the rights of its citizens in all cases, and when it could not prevent an injury, it ought to repair the damage. That this in the present case, might be done with a moral assurance of a reimbursement, as it would be a just article of charge in the account of the United States against France, to which justice must cheerfully give its sanction, and which in happier times, that government will undoubtedly allow. That as the justice of the demand was confessed, indemnifying the petitioner would be advancing a payment for France, for which her credit and honor were pledged, but which the present situation of that country would not at present allow her to make; but, Mr. Sheburne observed, that as the case was of the first impression, and he wished there might be a thorough investigation of principles as well as facts. He moved that the petition with the documents accompanying it, might be referred to the Secretary of State—This motion obtained.

The report on the petition of Henry Hill, in behalf of himself and others, was read and taken into consideration, and after some debate was laid on the table.

The house then, agreeably to the order of the day, went into committee of the whole, Mr. Trumbull in the chair, on the report of the Secretary of State, relative to the situation of our commercial relations with foreign countries.

The resolutions proposed by Mr. Madison some days since, founded on this report, were read by the clerk.

Mr. Smith S. C. rose. He hoped that it would be in order to take into view the general scope and tenor of the whole body of resolutions before the committee.

Amongst the various duties of the legislature under the constitution, none appeared to him more important than those which had for object the regulation of commerce, as they must involve the consideration of a great variety of interests.

These interests open a copious field for discussion, as they affect the agriculture, navigation and manufactures of this country—this being considered, the committee he hoped would, viewing the importance of the subject in the same light he saw it, excuse him if he took much of their time in adverting to a variety of facts connected with it.

As the committee were on the report of the Secretary of State on a commercial subject he should not go into political considerations which might by some be considered as in a degree connected; he hoped other members would see the propriety of pursuing the same plan. It would argue a distrust of the strength of the ground on which the resolutions proposed, stand, if the advocates for those resolutions permitted themselves to recur to politics to support them. He imagined it would be right to dismiss the consideration of all questions relative to Indians, Algerines and Western posts at the present time.—

There will be a time, and perhaps not far distant, when these questions will come under consideration, when this happened, he said, he should be prepared to give his opinion, with firmness and according to what he conceived the true interests of the country; but these subjects he conceived, not properly connected with the present, which gives of itself sufficient scope for argument, he should not therefore mix

The present is a delicate crisis; this country, since the revolution has probably never been in so critical a situation: the subject ought then to be weighed with calm reflection and deliberation, passions should not be substituted for reason, and the decision ought not to be founded on narrow or prejudiced views.

The report of the Secretary of State is before the committee, it gives a comparative view of our commercial regulations with other countries and invites us to retaliation. The most striking contrast there endeavoured to be established is between the systems of France and Great Britain; he should proceed he said, to lay before the committee an accurate statement of certain facts with which that report being compared it would be seen whether there is solid ground for the inferences endeavoured to be established in it.

To view the subject clearly it will be necessary to advert to the situation of affairs before the revolution of France, the commercial regulations of that country since that period having been produced by momentary interests, some of which are not to be mistaken, are not therefore such facts as the legislature should proceed upon.

He produced a table, made he said, by a gentleman of commercial knowledge, comprehending a comparative view of our commerce with Great Britain and France before the French revolution. With a view to conciseness the scope of this table has been confined to those articles which are of consequence in our trade. We are accustomed to hear continually the generosity and liberality of the French towards us greatly extolled, and the conduct of Great Britain as severely reprobated; it might therefore be expected that this table would contain instances of advantages allowed on the one hand and restrictions laid on the other; but the reverse of this expectation, he said, will be realized. It will be found that in France and the French West-Indies, we are not more favoured in respect to our exports than in the British dominions except in the not very important article of fish oil; this Mr. Smith, requested the committee particularly to notice; and that Great Britain and her islands hold out to us several advantages, in respect to our exports, not enjoyed by other nations, that are of very great importance. Mr. Smith (S. C.) was proceeding to read the table when Mr. Madison rose to ask what period it relates to; Mr. Smith informed him that it was built upon the state of things before the French revolution.

Mr. Smith then read his table, through which it will be sufficient to follow him, when he commented on it. Having mentioned the authentic documents, on which it is founded, such as proclamations of the King of Great Britain and statutes of their Parliament on the one hand, and arrests of the French Government on the other, he proceeded to make some observations on the principal exports from this country.

FLOUR the article of first importance among our exports, is more favored by Great Britain than France. France laid a duty of one-eighth per cent. on it, and no more on that imported from other nations. Great Britain lays a duty of 24/3 per quarter, until British flour rises to 50s, when ours pays a duty not above 6d.—The same system as to grain prevails generally in Great-Britain. Both these countries are good flour markets only in times of scarcity, when the British markets are high and the duties low and the French not able to supply enough for their own consumption, for when they are, our flour will not pay freight and charges, this will appear by attending to the price of that commodity. The average price in France, in abundant years, is 5 dollars and 2-3 per bar. of Penn. It ought to be six and a third in France to bear exportation from Pennsylvania.

France will generally produce enough for her own consumption, while Great Britain, it appears by a report of a committee of the privy council is likely to be incompetent to her own supply, which may render her market hereafter better for that article.

France lays no duties of any consequence on our flour, because they have no fear of our importations rivalling the sale of their own.

In the West Indies, matters wear a different aspect. France prohibited the importation of our flour there by a permanent law. To be sure the colonial governments had the power to enact temporary suspensions of this law, but these were only ex-

ceptions to the general rule and are not to be calculated upon. He believed the Secretary of State mistaken in his assertion, that latterly the prohibition had been taken off, unless he applies his observation to a period subsequent to that to which his report extends. There was, he was told, an arret in 1789 directing a suspension for some parts of the islands but it was soon after repealed, in France, as he has been informed.

In the British islands this article stands upon quite a different footing. Our flour may be imported free of all duties, and other foreign flour cannot be imported there, even in British bottoms.

He proceeded to give a view of the operations of these different systems in 1786, and 1788.

In '86 we exported to France 21 barrels only; to her colonies 1808. In the same year, to Great Britain none; but to her colonies 45,118 barrels.

In '88, to France, 2375; her colonies, 235. In the same year to Great Britain, 828, to her islands, 59,938.

Here then is a prodigious difference in favor of the system of Great Britain, in the article of flour. It is true that in 1791, '92 and '93, there were very large exportations of this article to France and her islands; but as this was the effect of the convulsed situation of that country, it is no criterion to build upon. The Secretary of State is of this opinion; he does not think it right to found calculations upon any other than the former settled state of things.

(Speech to be continued.)

PHILADELPHIA,

JANUARY 14.

Extract of a letter from John Bulkeley and Son, of Lisbon, to a mercantile house in this city, dated Lisbon, 28th Oct. 1793.

"We have the pleasure to say, we do not find the Algerines have captured a single American, numbers having arrived here, at Oporto, Cadiz, Bilbao, &c. and it is with infinite pleasure we acquaint you, that the truce in question was more the result of an unexpected event, than any studied plan of this cabinet, who, so far from approving of the consequences, have taken measures to protect your trade, and have actually dispatched a frigate to their squadron in the bay of Gibraltar, with orders to examine at sea every prize, and all that shall be found bound to the ports of this kingdom are to be set free, and the Algerines not to molest any of them in future at sea; and this government has appointed a convoy to protect the fifteen American ships now here, to a certain latitude, whence they will proceed home free from the Algerines. So that the apprehensions we were under, in the first instance, are now nearly removed, as there is little or no risk to any of your vessels coming to this port, on which we heartily congratulate you."

Extract of a letter from Hugh Goodan and Co. of Lisbon, dated 31st Oct. 1793.

"Since writing this day, we have it by a public edict on 'change, that the court of Portugal have finally determined to protect all American ships destined (with proper custom-house clearances) from your ports to any ports in this kingdom, and have ordered a small fleet on the coast to protect the same; and we also learn by the arrival of the Andromache frigate from Cadiz, that the President, of Baltimore, from Philadelphia to Cadiz, is said to be taken by an Algerine gun-boat of six guns the 26th inst.

Extract of a letter from Lisbon, October 31st.

"This goes by the American vessels that sail with convoy granted by this court, who have finally determined to protect all American vessels destined with clearances from your custom-house to any port in Portugal, and have ordered a fleet on the coast to protect the same."

Bank of North-America, 13th Jan. 1794.

At an annual election held this day for twelve Directors, the following gentlemen were chosen:

John Nixon, Josiah Hewes, Mordecai Lewis, Thomas Fitzsimons, Benj. Fuller, Wm. Smith, George Latimer, Joseph Swift, Robert Wall, Miers Fisher, John Morton, Richard Rundle.

To the Creditors of the French Republic.

SUCH persons as are Creditors of the Republic of France, for supplies sold to their commissioners in the West-India islands, are requested to meet at the City-Tavern, on Thursday evening the 16th inst. to consider of the best means of making application for payment of their respective debts.