

REPORT on a project of an act of navigation of the French Republic, presented to the National Convention the 30 of July, 1793. In the name of the committees of Marine, of Commerce and of Public Safety, by Peter Marec, deputy from Finistere, printed by order of the National Convention.

CITIZEN LEGISLATORS,
YOU have referred to your diplomatic committees of marine and commerce united, the proposition made in your body, the 20th of May last, to present to you without delay a project of an act of navigation.

This object so worthy of the meditation of a republican legislator, has not been overlooked by your committee of public safety. In the report they made to you on the 20th of May, on the state of the French Republic, they traced to you in general the invaluable advantages which would result to her from a measure, which having been adopted by England a century and a half ago, has been the most fruitful source of the prosperity of that rival power. But in a question of this nature, general considerations and observations hastily made, are insufficient to impress conviction on every mind.

Your marine committee has been employed in collecting such ideas and elements as might completely enlighten you on the importance of a navigation act, and finally determine you to establish at the side of the political constitution of the empire, this first basis of her commercial constitution. They could not unite, according to your views, with the diplomatic committee, which has not been renewed since the suppression of the committee of general defence; but they have concerted with those of commerce and public safety, and it is in the name of these three committees that I come to present to you the result of their deliberations.

The principal end of the navigation act which we propose, is to destroy the interposition of all indirect navigation, in the maritime transportation of our articles of exchange with foreign nations, and in fine to put a stop to that intermediate carrying trade, so prejudicial to our commerce and marine, which hitherto has rendered us benevolent tributaries of all the maritime powers of Europe. This act has also for its object, to reserve to the national vessels the exclusive privilege of transporting the same articles of exchange from one port of the Republic to another.

This double prohibition is doubtless contrary to the principles of an indefinite commercial freedom: but such freedom perhaps would not agree with the system of an universal republic; and it is conceived that the republic of the human race will be still more difficult to realize than that of Plato. It is then our wisdom not to allow ourselves to be dazzled by the brilliant imaginations of political writers, and who warp the light of reason and experience in their specious arguments and pompous theory. It is from the example of the great nations who surround us, from that nation especially, who first knew how to apply to her navigation prohibitory regulations; it is from that source we ought to derive rules for our conduct, if we have at heart the true prosperity of our country.

France taken in a commercial point of view is the richest enterpot of the universe; she is also the market which offers the most consumers and vent for the industry of other nations. Whence does it happen that, with so many resources and wants, with such abundance of territorial commodities, productions and merchandises with the habit of consuming such great quantities of the commodities productions & merchandises of foreigners, her navigation has hitherto been so languishing, her commercial marine so pitiful, so altogether destitute of the advantages which are its inherent right? Whence does it happen that the flag of her most formidable enemies has almost exclusively figured in her commercial relations? Because she was destitute of a navigation act; because a false, timid, and frivolous policy knew not how to produce, or did not dare to borrow, from a great nation proud of its wealth and of its credit, this valuable system, which has contributed more to the power of that nation, than all the victories of its admirals.

In a word it is time that the French nation should know all her advantages, and how to profit of them. It is time for her to repair all the injury she has sustained, in this respect, through the ignorance or criminal indifference of an oppressive government, more careful of preserving at any price, its despotic authority, more occupied in diplomatic intrigues or fiscal operations, more tenacious in maintaining the false splendor of a throne at the expense of the true interests of the people, than attentive to render productive by every means in its power, their agriculture, their commerce, and their industry.

Doubtless there never was a more favourable occasion for procuring to our country the benefit of a navigation act. Numerous republican armies, familiarized with victory, being now fighting for her independence and her liberty, against the very powers who are the most interested in preventing us from enjoying such an act. Before the war, it might have been sufficient for us to have made such an act merely with regard to England; such was the effect on Holland, when Oliver Cromwell, in 1651, had a decree passed by the British parliament.

At that epoch, according to the inquiries of one of our countrymen, the best informed at the present day, in the knowledge of our true commercial & political interests (Citizen Ducher*) the maritime commerce of the English did not consist of more than 96,000 tons of transports, in 1790, it rose to more than 300,000 tons.

Again at that epoch, according to the interesting report presented to the constituent assembly,

* If the convention pass the present project of a navigation act into a decree, the country will be under obligations to Citizen Ducher, who for upwards of two years past, has endeavoured to obtain the adoption of this plan with indefatigable perseverance, as well in committees of the National Assembly, as by the publication of his writings. This is an act of justice which affords me pleasure publicly to render to that excellent citizen.

bly, on this subject, by Citizen Delattre. "One half of the navigation of England was carried on by foreigners. England has imperceptibly re-taken her rights; towards the year of 1700, foreigners possessed no more than the fifth part of this navigation; in 1725, only a little more than the ninth; in 1750, a little more than a twelfth; and in 1791, they possessed only the fourteenth part of it."

Our navigation a year ago, was in regard to foreign nations, still more unfavourable than the English navigation of 1651. Permit me here, to give in a concise manner the striking calculations which were laid before you on this subject, in the month of December last, by the ex-minister of the home department, in the table containing the amount of the exterior commerce of the Republic of France.

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Feb. 1.

Insurance Company.
Philadelphia, January 6, 1794.

NOTICE is hereby given to the members of the Insurance Company of North-America, that the Directors have declared a dividend (for the last six months) of SIX PER CENT, on the amount of the first and second instalments; and of one per cent per month on the sums paid in anticipation of the third instalment, calculating from the first day of the month following that, in which those payments were made. The dividend will be paid to the Stockholders, or their representatives, at the company's office, No. 119 south Front-street, at any time after the 13th instant.

By order of the Directors,
EBENEZER HAZARD, Secretary.
Jan. 9. w&f. 1m.

STATE OF SOUTH-CAROLINA.
In the House of Representatives,
DECEMBER 21st, 1793.

WHEREAS the Commissioners of public Accounts, have reported, that they cannot proceed to the investigation of the Treasury Accounts, respecting special Indents, without knowing the outlandish amount thereof in circulation:—Therefore,

Resolved, That all holders of special Indents in their possession to one or other of the Commissioners of the Treasury, who are to give receipts for the same; and to report to the Commissioners on public accounts, on or before the tenth day of November next, the amount by them respectively received, and also to the Legislature, at their meeting in November next. And that all special Indents not rendered into the Treasury as above, on or before the first day of November next, shall be, and the same are hereby barred.

Resolved, That public notice of this resolution be given in the several Gazettes in this State, once every three weeks, until the first day of November next. And that the Delegates of this State in the Congress of the United States, be requested to cause this resolution to be published in one or more papers in the cities of Philadelphia and New-York, and that provision will be made for the expenses attending such publication.

Ordered, That the resolution be sent to the Senate for their concurrence.

By order of the House,
JOHN SANFORD DART, C. H. R.

In the SENATE,
DECEMBER 21st, 1793.

Resolved, That this House do concur with the House of Representatives in the foregoing resolutions.

Ordered, That the resolutions be sent to the House of Representatives.

By order of the Senate,
FELIX WARLEY, Clerk.

cwtNov.

Treasury Department,

NOTICE is hereby given, that proposals will be received at the Office of the Secretary of the Treasury, until the 6th of February next inclusive, for the supply of all Rations which may be required during the present year, at the several places of rendezvous hereafter mentioned, for the Recruiting Service, viz.

At New-Brunswick, in New-Jersey;
At Philadelphia, }
At Lancaster, } in Pennsylvania.
At Reading, }

The rations to be furnished are to consist of the following articles, viz.
One pound of bread or flour,
One pound of beef, or 3/4 of a pound of pork,
Half a gill of rum, brandy or whisky,
One quart of salt
Two quarts of vinegar }
Two pounds of soap } per 100 rations.
One pound of candles }
Jan. 9. tawt6F.

MONEY borrowed or loaned, accounts stated or collected, employers suited with domestics, house rooms, boarding and lodging sent, let or procured—soldier's, mariner's, or militia men's pay, lands and claims on the public; shares in the banks, in the canals, and the turnpike road; certificates granted by the public, and the old and late paper monies; notes of hand, bills, bonds and mortgages, with or without deposits—Bought, sold, or negotiated at No. 8, in south Sixth-street, below Market-street by FRANCIS WHITE, Who transacts business in the public offices for country people and others, by virtue of a power of attorney, or by personal application.
December 11. d

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Spalanzane's dissertations
London practice of physic

Bell's surgery
Chaptal's chemistry.

ALL persons having any demands against the estate of GEORGE WIBLE, late of the city of Philadelphia, baker, are requested to bring in their accounts, properly authenticated; and those who are indebted, are desired to make immediate payment.
HENRY REES, Administrator.
January 13. 2aw3w.

ROBERT CAMPBELL,
No. 54, South Second-street,
Second door below the corner of Chestnut-street,
HAS IMPORTED,
By the late arrivals from Britain and Ireland,
A large and general Assortment of
New Books and Stationary,
Which will be disposed of on the lowest terms.
Dec. 23. mw&f 1f

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By THOMAS DOBSON,
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As a number of families are still in the country, and it is not generally known who are returned, T. Dobson, solicits the favor of the subscribers to call or send for their volumes, that they may be supplied as early as possible.

The TENTH VOLUME of the Encyclopedia is now presented to the public; but as it makes its appearance in an imperfect state, some account of the reason of that imperfection should be given. On the 8th of September last, the Publisher had the misfortune of having his Printing Office burnt down by a fire which broke out in the neighbourhood, and a great quantity of his printing materials destroyed, and among other articles, the FIGURES, with which he was printing the TABLES OF LOGARITHMS, belonging to the present volume, were melted down by the violence of the fire. As a supply of these could not be immediately obtained, he was under the necessity of publishing the volume without the TABLES; but hopes he shall be able to publish them with the next volume which is now in considerable forwardness.

The Publisher embraces this opportunity of expressing his grateful acknowledgments to the generous public, for the very liberal patronage with which his undertaking has been honored; at the same time he takes the liberty of representing to such of the subscribers as are in arrears, the indispensable necessity of punctuality, both in taking up the volumes as early as possible after publication, and of paying for them when taken. Many of the subscribers having got only one, two, three, &c. volumes, and several volumes remain UNPAID. Thus the work hangs in all its different stages from the commencement; and though the importance of a few dollars may be but a trifle to the individuals, yet the accumulation of these trifles UNPAID lays the Publisher under very serious embarrassment, and deprives him of the use of many Thousands of Dollars which at this time would be of very essential service. For these reasons the Publisher finds himself under the necessity of recurring to the original terms of publication, and in future no volumes will be delivered but only to those who take and pay to the time of publication.

December 10. 2awt1J.

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