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IN CONGRESS,

APRIL 14, 1777.

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

RESOLVED,

THAT it be recommended to the Executive Powers of each of the United States to enquire into the conduct of all Officers on the recruiting service within them respectively; to remove all such as belong to the Battalions of their respective quotas, who have neglected their duty or abused the trust reposed in them, and shall be found within their respective jurisdiction, and to fill up all vacancies which may happen by such removals; to transmit to Congress all such testimony as shall be taken against any Officer or Officers, who may have marched or removed from the State to whose Battalions he or they belong; and against any Officer or Officers belonging to the quota of another State, who may have been guilty of neglect or misbehavior in the State where the inquiry shall be made.

That it be recommended to the said Executive Powers to procure exact returns of the Continental Troops in each State and transmit the same to Congress without delay, and all Officers and Soldiers of the Continental Army are hereby required to pay the strictest regard to the orders of the Executive Powers of the several States touching the aforesaid premises.

That the Executive Power of each State be authorised and impowered to order such Officers as they shall judge proper from the respective Battalions and Companies of their respective quotas, to remain within the State for the purpose of aiding in inlisting and collecting the recruits which may be furnished under the above recommended regulations, and to convey the same to the Battalions and Companies to which they shall belong, such Officers to be under the direction of such Executive Powers respectively.

APRIL 29.

RESOLVED,

That it be recommended to the several States forthwith to order the sums advanced by them for recruiting the Continental Battalions, raised by the said States, together with the names of the Officers receiving the same, to be transmitted to the Pay-Masters of such battalions, and that the said Pay-Masters be respectively required to call such Officers to account therefor, who shall produce certificates from the Muster-Master or Deputy Muster-Master General, specifying the number of non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers; and also, if Officers of the Light Horse, the number of horses and arms and equipage, belonging to their respective regiments, companies or troops, together with such other vouchers as shall be necessary to prove the sums expended for these articles, the subsistence of the troops before their joining the army, the loss of money by death or desertions of noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers before muster, or other necessary expences. And it is further recommended to the said States, That they order the said regimental Pay-Masters to report to them the settlement of the said accounts, together with the vouchers, to be produced, when confirmed by the said States, to the Treasury Board, on adjustment of their accounts.

That it be recommended to the said States, if any of the regimental Pay-Masters shall neglect to obey their directions as aforesaid, to order their names to be transmitted to the Commander in Chief of the department, who shall thereupon remove from office such delinquent Pay-Masters, and supply their places with such others as he shall think qualified therefor.

That if any Officer shall not, within one month afterapplication for that purpose, render such account, the regimental Pay Master requiring the same shall make report thereof to the Commander in Chief of the department, who shall order a Court-Martial on such Officer, and also on such other Officer or Officers as shall be guilty of embezzling the public money, and, the fact being ascertained by their report, shall immediately cause him to be cashiered, and a copy of the report delivered to the regimental Pay-Master, to be transmitted to the State to which he belongs, that such State may give proper orders for compelling the delinquent Officer to account in a Court of Justice.

That duplicate accounts of all monies advanced by Congress, by General Officers and by the Pay-Master and Deputy Pay-Masters General, for recruiting Continental Battalions, be transmitted by the Treasury Board, such General Officers and Pay-Master and Deputy Pay-Masters General respectively to the Commissioners of Accounts for the army in the Northern and Middle Departments, who shall deliver the same to the respective regimental Pay-Masters, to enable them to call the Officers chargeable with such money to account in the manner before directed: And the said regimental Pay-Masters shall transmit to the respective Commissioners aforesaid, the settlement of such accounts with the vouchers, who shall report to the Treasury-Office those which are approved of by them, and shall proceed with the regimental Pay-Master neglecting to obey their directions herein, and Officers not accounting for the monies by them received as aforesaid, in the manner proposed to be pursued by the States in the preceeding resolve.

That the General Officers, Pay-Master and Deputy Pay-Masters General respectively, be also directed to transmit to the Treasury-Office duplicate accounts of all monies advanced by them for recruiting Continental Battalions as aforesaid.

That all regimentalPay-Masters be directed to apply to the respective Commissioners for accounts of the sums advanced to their Officers as aforesaid.

That all Commissioners of claims or accounts be empowered to administer oaths or affirmations to persons examined by them in the execution of their office.

Extracts from the Minutes,

CHRALES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

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