

Having now but 400 Militia from both Shores, I joined my Regular Brigade the other Day. Their ragged situation, the approaching season, and the improbability of procuring supplies of Cloathing, produced sensations that must affect any Person of Humanity. This led me to address General Washington on the Subject, who must feel much for the Distress which generally prevails in the Army for want of Blankets and Cloathing and must also be very sensible of the check and Abatement in the Progress of our Military Operations from this Circumstance....Stokings [sic] are most wanted, and I fear will be most difficult to procure, which induces me to recommend (if they can't be had) Woolen Overhalls with Socks, these for Winter, and Linnen for Summer provided the Soldiery could [sic] have two pairs.

Although the Maryland delegates in Congress voted against a tax being imposed on each state to achieve solvency for the Continental Treasury, the General Assembly quickly moved to alleviate the suffering of its own soldiers. Even before passing the act on clothing, the Assembly had an announcement inserted in the November 20 issue of the Maryland Gazette urging every householder to furnish one pair of "good strong shoes and one pair of good white yarn stocking, or a greater number if possible," to the county sheriff, who was ordered to pay as much as twenty-five shillings for each, depending upon their quality. On November 27, the Assembly appointed collectors of clothing for each Maryland county, specifying five towns--Annapolis, Frederick, Head of Elk, Chestertown, and Cambridge--where the collectors were to deliver the necessary commodities. In addition, Governor Thomas Johnson wrote to David Craufurd, of Prince George's County, on November 20, informing him that the "Accounts which we have from Camp of the distessed situation of our Troops for want of Cloathing, are very alarming." Johnson asked Craufurd to go to Alexandria, Virginia, where the necessary articles were said to be available, and to purchase "Woolens sufficient for 1000 Suits of Cloaths, any Number of Blanketts, 1000 Pair of Shoes and Stockings and Hats." He added that "It is impossible to say what will be the greatest Price of the Cloth or Blanketts; if to be had, do not be over nice about the Price, the Hats too, stand in the same Predicament."

The government of Maryland also took the initiative in attempting to prepare within the state the kinds of vital supplies necessary not only for the Continental Army, but also for the citizens of the state. It provided William Webb Haddaway £250 "for erecting a Salt Works in Talbot County" on November 26, and it certainly must have endorsed the articles that appeared in Maryland newspapers during the month concerning the production of sugar from Indian corn [maize] and an article entitled, "On the Choise of WATER for producing SALT." Maryland's governor, Thomas Johnson, an experienced army officer, was determined to do what he could to provide succor to the state's citizens in the army and to suppress dissent within the boundaries