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In CONGRESS,

MARCH 23, 1779.

ORDINANCE for regulating the CLOATHING DEPARTMENT for the ARMIES of the UNITED STATES.

THERE ſhall be a Cloathier-General, a Sub or State-Cloathier for each State, and a Regimental Cloathier.

The Cloathier-General is to be ſubject to the Orders of the Board of War and Commander in Chief. He is to furniſh Eſtimates of the Supplies wanted for the Army; to apply to the Commander in Chief and Board of War for Aſſiſtance therein; to make Returns of ſuch Eſtimates to them reſpectively; to receive all Supplies imported from abroad, and purchaſed in the Country by Continental Agents; to ſuperintend the Diſtribution thereof to the State-Cloathiers; to ſettle Accounts with them at leaſt every ſix Months; to keep regular Accounts of all the Cloathing he ſhall receive, as well as of the Diſtribution thereof among the State-Cloathiers; and to tranſmit his Accounts twice in every Year to the Board of Treaſury, and ſettle them in the Chamber of Accounts when required; and generally to take Care, on the one Hand, that Juſtice is done to the Public, and on the other, that the Army receive whatever ſhall be allowed to them in a regular, direct and ſeaſonable Manner; and at the ſame Time, ſo to act between the Continent and each particular State, that equal and impartial Juſtice may be done on all Sides.

The SUB or STATE CLOATHIER.

A Sub or State Cloathier is to be appointed by each State reſpectively, to reſide with or near the Army, or ſuch Detachment thereof in which the Troops of the ſaid State may be, as the Commander in Chief ſhall direct, the better to know and ſupply their Wants. The State appointing him is to be anſwerable for his Conduct. In Caſe of Neglect or Miſbehaviour, he is to be diſplaced by the Commander in Chief, and his Succeſſor to be appointed by the State to which he belonged. He is to receive from the Cloathier-General the Proportion of Cloathing aſſigned for the Troops of his State, out of the public Cloathing imported or purchaſed by Continental Agents; and from the State for which he is appointed, all the Cloathing which may at Continental Expence be purchaſed in ſuch State; of the latter, their Quality and Price, he ſhall tranſmit exact Accounts to the Cloathier-General, and, when required, ſubmit the ſeveral Articles to the Inſpection of the Cloathier-General, or any Perſon for that Purpoſe deputed by him: He is to iſſue all Cloathing ſupplied as aforeſaid to the Regimental Cloathiers, on Returns ſigned by the Commanding Officers of Regiments: He is to keep exact Returns with each Regiment, inſpect thoſe of the Regimental Cloathiers, ſee that the Articles delivered them are duly iſſued to the Troops, and that all the Cloathing procured at Continental Expence, above the Allowance made by Congreſs, drawn by non-commiſſioned Officers and Privates is charged to them, and credited to the Pay-roll; and that the commiſſioned Officers receive what is credited to them, and no more: He is to keep exact Accounts with the Cloathier-General in Behalf of the Public, charging the United States only with what is allowed to the Officers and Men. Whenever the Troops of any State ſhall have received their Proportion of Cloathing from the Continental Stores, the Supplies purchaſed at Continental Expence by the State to which they belong, or from both, and there ſhall remain a Surplus which may be wanted for other Troops not fully ſupplied, the Sub Cloathier poſſeſſed thereof is to deliver over the Surplus to ſuch other State-Cloathier as the Cloathier-General ſhall direct, taking duplicate Invoices and Receipts from the State-Cloathier to whom they ſhall be transferred, one Sett of which he is to depoſite with the Cloathier-General, and the other to retain as his own Voucher; the Cloathier-General on his Part making proper Entries in his Accounts, to do Juſtice to all concerned.

When, from a Deficiency in the public Stores, the Troops of any States ſhall not have received their Allowance of Cloathing, the State-Cloathier is without Delay to repreſent their Wants, particularly enumerated in a Return for that Purpoſe, to the Executive Authority of the State to which he belongs, requeſting a ſpeedy and adequate Supply.

And in Caſe a State, at its own Expence, ſhall give, and depoſite with him, any Cloathing, for the more comfortable Subſiſtence of its Quota of Troops, in Addition to the Allowance made by Congreſs, he is ſtrictly to purſue the Directions of ſuch State, as well with Reſpect to the Diſtribution, as the Vouchers for the Delivery, and the Manner and Time of ſettling his Accounts; tranſmitting once in every Six Months a Copy of ſuch Accounts to the Cloathier-General, and as often, and whenever required, to the State to which he belongs.

The REGIMENTAL CLOATHIER.

The Office of Regimental Cloathier ſhall always be executed by the Regimental Pay-Maſter.

He is to be furniſhed by Captains or Officers commanding Companies with Returns, ſpecifying the Men's Names, and the particular Wants of each; theſe he is to digeſt into a Regimental Return; which,