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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4th 1801.

PAID IN ADVANCE.

REPORT.

The Committee to whom was referred the representation of the House of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory.

REPORT.

That the first object mentioned in this representation respects the failure of an election for a member of the House of Representatives for the county of Washington, in that territory.

On account of the governor's order not being received in season, the election was then held on the 15th and 16th days of August, whereas by law it was directed to have been held on the 15th day of July. In all other respects the election is represented to have been fair, and no error chosen. Correct. The power of the governor to issue a writ of election is doubted, and the interference of Congress is denied.

As the members of the House of Representatives of the territory, for two years, and unless special provision is made, the inhabitants of Washington county will have no member in the House of Representatives, the first session of the General Assembly, it appears to your committee expedient to authorize the governor to order an election to be held in that county, for the choice of a representative.

The second object of this representation, respects the time of holding the first session of the General Assembly of the district.

By law the General Assembly is to meet annually on the first Monday of December, unless by law they appoint a different day. The governor has power on extraordinary occasions to convene the General Assembly.

It was found impracticable to make the appointments of the legislative council for holding the first session of the General Assembly, on the first Monday of December last, and it is represented that if an earlier time be fixed than the first day of December next as now established by law, the appointment of a delegate in Congress for the territory cannot be made feasibly for the next Congress, and it is fixed that the governor will be indispensed to convene the General Assembly at an earlier day.

The powers of the governor being, consistent to the object in view, in the opinion of the committee, it would be inexpedient for Congress to interfere on the grounds suggested of a presumption that those powers will not be fairly and discreetly exercised in this instance.

The committee therefore respectfully submit to the consideration of the House, the following resolution:
Resolved, That the governor of the Mississippi territory be, and he is authorized to hold an election in the county of Washington in that territory, for the choice of a representative in the first General Assembly of the territory.

The Committee to whom was referred the address and remonstrance of the Legislature of the State of Georgia, submitted the following REPORT.

The remonstrance complains of two acts of Congress respecting the Mississippi territory, one passed in April, one in May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety eight, the other in May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety nine, and prays for their repeal.

The tract of country called the Mississippi territory, is bounded on the west by the river Mississippi, on the east by the river Appalachicola, or Chatahoochee, on the South by the southern boundary of the United States, and on the north by a line drawn from the confluence of the river Yanoos with the Mississippi, due to the north, to the mouth of the Chatahoochee.

For a view of the claim of the United States to the territory in question, the committee, in the present instance, deem it sufficient to refer to a report of the Attorney-general, made to the Senate, at the first session of the fourth Congress, and to the report of a committee of the House of

Representatives, made at the first session of the fifth Congress. The last mentioned report also contains a summary statement of a variety of individual claims to land within the territory.

The claim of Georgia is particularly stated in the remonstrance referred to your committee.

The two acts of Congress, of which the remonstrance complains, have provided for an adjustment of those claims, through the agency of commissioners; and also for the establishment of a government over the Mississippi territory, similar to that established by the ordinance of Congress, of July one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, for the territory north-west of the river Ohio; leaving and referring to the State of Georgia all her right or claim to the territory.

Commissioners have accordingly been appointed on the part of the United States, and also on the part of Georgia, for negotiation of the claims existing in that territory. No report has yet been laid before Congress from the commission of the United States; but the business of their commission is understood to be very tedious.

Considering the state of things, the committee deem it proper for them to abstain from any particular discussion of the claims to the Mississippi territory, while a hope is cherished that an amicable adjustment may be ultimately effected; nor do they think it expedient to suggest any measure which may be prejudicial to an object so desirable.

The committee therefore submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That it would not be proper at this time for the House to take any further order on the address and remonstrance of the legislature of the State of Georgia.

IN SENATE, February 27th, 1801.

The committee appointed to join the committee as made, appointed on the part of the House of Representatives, to consider whether any, and if any, what measures ought to be adopted for the further accommodation of the President of the United States, for the term commencing the fourth day of March next.

REPORT.

THAT, upon the appropriation of fifteen thousand dollars made for the purchase of the furniture for the President's house, by the 2d section of the act entitled "An act to make further provision for the removal and accommodation of the government of the United States," passed the twenty-fourth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, five thousand seven hundred and fifty-nine dollars thirty-eight cents, has been actually expended; and that there are outstanding accounts for furniture already purchased and received, which may be estimated at something more than two thousand dollars, leaving an unexpended balance of about six thousand dollars, still applicable to the object for which the appropriation was made.

That although a number of rooms reserved for the use of the President, in the building occupied by the President, are not yet finished, and that no further measures are necessary for that object.

FIRE IN TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, February 23d, 1801.

Sir, In obedience to the resolve of the House of Representatives of the 23d instant, I have the honor of transmitting herewith the best information it is in my power to obtain, in relation to the destruction of official books and papers by the fire in the building occupied by the Treasury Department. To the enclosed statement from the other officers of the Department,

I have the pleasure to add, that the books and papers belonging immediately to my office, with the exception of a few official letters and documents which can be replaced, have been preserved. It is not probable that any great public inconvenience will be the consequence of the unfortunate accident which gave occasion to the enquiry.

I have the honor to be, Very respectfully, Sir, Your obedient servant, SAMUEL DEXTER, The Honorable the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Comptroller's Office February 19th, 1801.

Sir, In reply to your letter of the 4th instant, I have the honor to inform you, that after a careful and diligent examination it does not appear that records or documents pertaining to this office are missing in consequence of the late fire, from which any loss can result to the public, or to individuals. One book in which funds were preferred by depositors, and recorded, has not yet appeared, though, as its destruction is highly improbable, expectations are entertained that it will eventually be found. If it should not, it can be replaced with ease labor.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with great respect, Your obedient servant, JOHN STEELE, The Honorable Samuel Dexter Esq.

List of Books and papers destroyed or lost in the Auditor's Office, in consequence of the fire which took place in the Treasury, on Tuesday the 20th of January, 1801.

1st. The books containing copies of reports on all the accounts which have been adjusted since the establishment of the present government, excepting those on the public debt filed at the Treasury, which being entered in a distinct list of books and kept in another room, were preserved. With the aid and expense of an extra clerk, the lost copies may be replaced, as the originals with the statements and vouchers belonging to them, are deposited in the Register's office.

2d. The books containing copies of various statements made by the Auditor and Accountants under the late government. The originals of these are also in the Register's Office, and new copies may be made from them, if necessary.

3d. The ledgers and journals in which were entered the accounts settled by the late commissioner with the officers of the old quarter master and commissary departments. The copies of the books and the necessity of adjusting those of the accounts in the departments as remained open; but from the examination which had been made, the greater part were found to be correct, and to leave little hope of satisfactory statements. Some of these however though not paid, have been filed as far as the materials would admit. It is believed that few, if any of the papers are lost.

4th. The books in which were entered the accounts of the late Excise and commercial committee. The papers being safe, no great inconvenience will result from the loss of the books, as few, if any of the transactions of this committee, remain unadjusted.

5th. A number of claims exhibited by individuals, for services or supplies during the late war. Most of these had been presented in the first instance to the flat commissioners, and turned over by them to the Auditor. They had been all examined many years ago, and judged inadmissible, but as the register or list is gone with them, it is impossible to state the particular nature of each, or the names of the respective claimants.

6th. An account rendered by the Bank of the United States, for the sale of 8 percent. Stock, under the late act authorizing

a loan. A duplicate of this may be obtained.

7th. An account of Hazen Kimball for the contingent expenses of the office of late, which had been examined and was ready for filing. The vouchers cannot be replaced, but the statement furnished until he should also render his account for furnishing the President's house, with which it had some connection.

8th. An account of Thomas Claxton, as agent for furnishing the Capitol. The vouchers had been all examined and found correct, but the statement furnished until he should also render his account for furnishing the President's house, with which it had some connection.

9. The accounts and vouchers of Trench Francis, late surveyor of public supplies, for purchases from July 11th 1797, to the month of September, 1798, accompanied by a general account current, filed by his executors; in which they claimed a balance. The examination of these accounts was partially completed, but the final settlement of them suspended from a wish to bring into view the balances for or against him with the departments of war and navy, with which his accounts were also in a course of settlement. Duplicates of the abstracts and (it is understood) of the vouchers also, can be furnished.

10th. Three partial or subordinate accounts of Israel Wheelen, the present purveyor. Duplicates of all these have been already in filled.

11th. The accounts of the following gentlemen, acting as agents for the commissaries of the direct tax, in their respective States:

- Joseph Tracy—New-Hampshire.
- Nathaniel Gilman—New-Hampshire.
- James White—Tennessee.
- Stephen Bayard—New-York.
- Paul Zantinger—Pennsylvania.
- Thomas Davis—Massachusetts.

All these accounts, except the last, had been examined, but the final settlement of two of them, which were particularly the two first, would have been filed and passed the next day. The others were suspended, either for want of warrants, or some further explanation on particular points. As the vouchers, though much injured, are not entirely defaced, it is probable that when they can be more thoroughly examined and properly arranged, they may be yet found sufficiently perfect to admit of settlement with all least forms of the agents.

A few other accounts were also somewhat injured; but being filed however in a late to be settled, a detail of them is deemed superfluous.

In addition to the foregoing, it is possible, and even probable, that in the course of business some other papers may be found missing, which are not recollectable at this time; but none, it is believed, of much consequence.

R. HARRISON, Treasury Department, Auditor's Office, Feb. 19, 1801.

The Register of the Treasury, upon the communication of the Secretary of the Treasury, of the fourth instant, transmitting a copy of the resolution of the House of Representatives of the United States, of Monday the second February, 1801.

RES. LEAVE TO REPORT.—That upon the alarm of the late fire in the house occupied by the Treasury Department, all the books and records of the United States pertaining to his office, which were deemed of primary importance, were removed from the fire-rooms and rooms occupied by the Register, and that upon their being replaced it does not appear, after a minute examination, that any of the books and records of the Treasury, upon the destruction of which the late fire, furnished either injury or loss, excepting statements numbers 8,961—10,919—and 11,549, with their respective vouchers, which were in a part of the building exposed to the fire. The official reports upon these three statements, having been preserved, and the accounts thereof closed in the Treasury books, it is presum-