

[Section VII.] (Section VIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no other rates or duties be demanded, received or paid in this state on any wine, rum, brandy or other spirits than those imposed and made payable by this act and the act hereby amended and continued, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed April 6, 1781. Recorded L. B. No. 1, p. 427, etc. See the note to the Act of Assembly passed March 21, 1772, Chapter 656, and the Act of Assembly passed March 19, 1783, Chapter 1016.

CHAPTER CMXXXIX.

AN ACT FOR EMITTING THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS IN BILLS OF CREDIT, FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE ARMY AND FOR ESTABLISHING A FUND FOR THE REDEMPTION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas, it is not to be expected, during the present war with Great Britain, that sufficient quantities of gold and silver money can be procured or retained in this state, for the procuring and providing sufficient supplies of provisions and other articles for the support of the army, and for the purposes of private dealings, for which purpose and for supplying the good people of this state with a medium of commerce of a stable and solid nature for want of which they already suffer:

And whereas, there are many and large arrearages and sums of money due to this state from private persons for lands heretofore granted and claimed, which ought to be pledged as a fund of credit for the relieving the public necessities and supplying the treasury at this time:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That bills of credit to the value of five hundred thousand pounds shall be prepared and printed with all possible dispatch after the publication of

this act on good strong paper, under the care and direction of George Gray, John Steinmetz, Henry Hill, Samuel Penrose, Henry Hayes and William Harris, the charges whereof shall be paid by the state treasurer out of the moneys so prepared and printed, which bills of credit shall be made and prepared in manner and form following, viz.:

“This bill shall pass current for ————, according to an act of general assembly of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed the seventh day of April, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one. Dated the ———— day of April, Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one.”

And the said bills shall have the state arms as an escutcheon in the margin thereof, with such other devices as the said George Gray, John Steinmetz, Henry Hill, Samuel Penrose, Henry Hayes and William Harris, or a majority of them, shall think proper, in order to prevent counterfeits, and to distinguish their several and respective denominations, which bills shall be of the several and respective denominations following, and no other. That is to say:

Twenty-nine thousand and seventy-seven of the said bills, the sum of five pounds each.

Twenty-nine thousand and seventy-seven of the said bills, the sum of three pounds each.

Twenty-nine thousand and seventy-seven of the said bills, the sum of two pounds ten shillings each.

Twenty-nine thousand and seventy-seven of the said bills, the sum of two pounds each.

Twenty-nine thousand and seventy-seven of the said bills, the sum of one pound ten shillings each.

Twenty-nine thousand and seventy-seven of the said bills, the sum of one pound each.

Twenty-nine thousand and seventy-six of the said bills, the sum of fifteen shillings each.

Twenty-nine thousand and seventy-six of the said bills the sum of ten shillings each.

Forty thousand of the said bills, the sum of five shillings each.

Forty thousand of the said bills, the sum of two shillings and six pence each.

Forty thousand of the said bills, the sum of two shillings each.

Twenty thousand of the said bills, the sum of one shilling and six pence each.

Twenty thousand of the said bills, the sum of one shilling each.

Eighty thousand of the said bills, the sum of nine pence each.

Eighty thousand of the said bills, the sum of six pence each, and

Eighty thousand of the said bills, the sum of three pence each.

(Section III, P. L.) And the said George Gray, John Steinmetz, Henry Hill, Samuel Penrose, Henry Hayes and William Harris shall use their best care, attention and diligence during the making of the paper and printing of the said bills, that the number and amount thereof, according to the said several denominations, be not exceeded, nor any clandestine or fraudulent practices used by the paper maker or the printer, his or their servants or others.

(Section IV, P. L.) And for the perfecting the said bills according to the true intent and meaning of this act:

[Section II.] Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said bills, the denomination whereof shall be ten shillings and upwards, shall be signed by any two of the persons hereinafter mentioned, and that every of the said bills the denomination whereof shall be under ten shillings, shall be signed by any one of the persons hereinafter mentioned. That is to say: Cadwalader Morris, Samuel Meredith, James Budden, Joseph Wharton, Joseph Bullock, Samuel Caldwell, Michael Shubart, David H. Cunningham, Jacob Barge, Philip Boehm, John Purviance, Joseph Dean, John Miller, Jonathan Mifflin, Isaac Howell, Richard Bache, John Baynton, Tench Francis, David Shaffer, Senior, Thomas Pryor, Robert Knox, John Mease, Jacob S. Howell and John Patton, who are hereby nominated and appointed signers thereof, and who shall, before they receive or sign any of them, take an oath or affirmation to the

effect following, viz.: That they shall well and truly sign and number all the bills of credit that shall come to their hands for that purpose according to the directions of this act, and the same so signed and numbered will re-deliver or cause to be re-delivered unto George Gray, John Steinmetz, Henry Hill, Samuel Penrose, Henry Hayes and William Harris, or any of them, pursuant to the directions of this act.

(Section V, P. L.) And to avoid the danger of embezzlement or misapplication of any of the said bills of credit:

[Section III.] Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said George Gray, John Steinmetz, Henry Hill, Samuel Penrose, Henry Hayes and William Harris, after the said bills shall be printed, shall deliver from time to time so many of them to the signers aforesaid by parcels to be signed and numbered as they shall judge proper, for which the said signers, or some one of them, shall give receipts. That is to say: That not more than three thousand pounds of the said bills shall remain in the hands of any two of them at the same time, and so, from time to time, till the whole of the said bills be signed, of all which bills of credit so delivered to be signed and numbered as aforesaid, a true account shall be kept by the signers, who, upon re-delivery of each or any parcel of the said bills by them signed and numbered shall have the receipt of the said George Gray, John Steinmetz, Henry Hill, Samuel Penrose, Henry Hayes and William Harris, or any two of them, to charge them before any committee of assembly appointed to enquire into the same; and each of the said signers shall have fifteen shillings for every thousand of the said bills by him signed and numbered, and no more; and the said George Gray, John Steinmetz, Henry Hill, Samuel Penrose, Henry Hayes and William Harris shall severally receive twenty-five shillings for every day they shall be employed in the said business, and the treasurer of this state shall, for receiving and paying, have and receive two shillings and six pence per hundred pounds for his care and trouble, to be paid out of the moneys emitted by virtue of this act.

[Section IV.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the bills of credit hereby directed to

be prepared and made as fast as the same shall be signed, numbered and perfected as aforesaid, shall be delivered to the treasurer of the state by the said George Gray, John Steinmetz, Henry Hill, Samuel Penrose, Henry Hayes and William Harris, or any of them, who shall give a receipt or receipts for the same, and shall issue and pay the same according to the drafts of the general assembly or of the president or vice-president in council for public use.

[Section V.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That, together with the guarantee of the honor and faith of Pennsylvania which is hereby given, so much as shall be sufficient of the arrearages and sums of money due to this state for lands heretofore granted or claimed by virtue of warrants, locations, surveys or any other title that might be deemed good and valid, according to the law, custom or usage in force under the late government, shall be and hereby is pledged and declared to be a fund out of which the bills of credit aforesaid shall be redeemed and cancelled, within the term of five years from the passing of this act, in the manner following. That is to say: The one-fifth part thereof yearly and every year until the whole shall be redeemed and cancelled as aforesaid.

[Section VI.] (Section VIII, P. L.) And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the bills of credit emitted by this act be and are hereby declared to be legal tender to all intents and purposes whatsoever, and shall be taken and received in payment in all bargains, contracts, purchases, agreements, dealings, debts, dues and demands, according to the sum specified in said bill, to be taken and received at the rate or value of fifteen shillings for every two dollars, and so in proportion for a larger or lesser sum, and of equal value, in the payment of such bargain, contract, purchase, agreement, dealing, debt, due and demand whatsoever with two Spanish milled dollars, each weighing seventeen pennyweight and six grains; and sixty shillings of the emission aforesaid shall be taken and received at the rate of or equal in value to one gold half johannes of Portugal, weighing nine pennyweight, and in the like proportion for all other gold or silver coin, any contract, agreement

or bargain between parties to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

[Section VII.] (Section IX, P. L.) And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate from and after the publication of this act shall refuse to receive any of the said bills of credit, when tendered in payment of any debt, bargain, contract or demand whatsoever, provided the whole of the said debt or demand be so tendered, such person or persons, bodies politic and corporate so refusing shall be forever barred from suing for or recovering the same before any judge or in any court of this state.

[Section VIII.] (Section X, P. L.) And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person whatsoever shall, after the passing of this act, refuse to take and receive any of the bills of credit aforesaid in payment of any live stock, necessary of life, commodity, manufacture, article or goods whatsoever which he or she shall sell or expose to sale, or offer the same for a less price or smaller sum of money to be paid in gold or silver, than in the bills of credit emitted as aforesaid, or that shall give or receive a greater nominal sum of said bills of credit for a less in gold or silver, every such [person] being thereof legally convicted, in any court of general quarter sessions of the peace in this state or before one justice of the peace in cases where the forfeiture shall not exceed five pounds) shall, for every offense, forfeit and pay the value of the article or articles so sold or exposed to sale, one moiety thereof to the person or persons giving information of the same and prosecuting the offender to conviction, and the other moiety for the use of the poor of the city, district or township where the offense shall be committed.

[Section IX.] (Section XI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the party giving information as aforesaid, shall be admitted a competent witness on the trial of offenders against this act, any law, custom or usage to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

[Section X.] (Section XII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the publication of this act, if any person or persons shall, within this state or

elsewhere, prepare, engrave, stamp, forge or print the counterfeit resemblance of any paper bills of credit which shall be issued, emitted and made in virtue of this act, or shall counterfeit or sign the name or names of the signers of the said bills of credit to such counterfeit bills of credit, with an intention that such counterfeit bills of credit shall be passed in payments or received as genuine and good bills, whether the same be so passed or received or not; or if any person or persons shall, in this state, pass, pay or tender in payment any such counterfeit money, or deliver the same to any other person or persons with an intention that they may be paid, passed or received as and for good and genuine, knowing the same to be forged or counterfeited, every such person being thereof legally convicted or attainted in any court of oyer and terminer within this state, by verdict of a jury or confession of the party offending, or being indicted thereof shall stand mute or not directly answer to the indictment or shall peremptorily challenge more than the number of twenty persons legally returned to be of the jury for the trial of such offender, shall be adjudged a felon and shall suffer death without benefit of clergy, and if any person or persons shall counterfeit any of the said bills of credit by altering the denomination thereof with design to increase the value of such bills, or shall utter such bills knowing them to be so counterfeited or altered as aforesaid, and shall be thereof legally convicted in any court of record in this state, such person or persons shall be sentenced to the pillory, have both his or her ears cut off and nailed to the pillory and be publicly whipped on his or her bare back with thirty-nine lashes well laid on; and, moreover, every such offender shall forfeit the sum of two thousand pounds, lawful money of Pennsylvania, to be levied on his or her lands and tenements, goods and chattels, the one moiety to the use of the state and the other moiety to the discoverer; and the offender shall pay to the party grieved double the value of the damages thereby sustained, together with costs and charges of prosecution; and in case the offender hath not sufficient to satisfy the discoverer for his or her damages and charges, and pay the forfeiture aforesaid, in such case the offender shall, by order of the court

where he or she shall be convicted, be sold as a servant for any term not exceeding seven years for satisfaction.

[Section XI.] (Section XIV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the first day of June next, no money shall be received in taxes or other public dues in this state other than gold and silver or bills of credit by law equivalent thereto. And that the treasurer of this state be and he hereby is authorized and empowered to set apart the sum of two hundred thousand pounds of the money to be emitted in pursuance of the directions of this act for the purpose of exchanging old continental bills of credit, the commonwealth money emitted by an act passed the twentieth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, and the money heretofore emitted by the resolves of the assemblies of Pennsylvania according to the rate of exchange to be declared by the president and supreme executive council agreeable to the powers vested in them by an act passed the twenty-third day of December, one thousand seven hundred and eighty. And in order to accommodate the people possessing any of the said old continental, commonwealth or resolve money in the several counties of this state, the state treasurer is hereby authorized to employ the several county treasurers in exchanging the same according to the said rates declared by the supreme executive council and under such restrictions as they may judge proper and necessary.

Passed April 7, 1781. Recorded L. B. No. 1, p. 428, etc. See the Acts of Assembly passed June 25, 1781, Chapter 948; April 13, 1782, Chapter 971; April 13, 1782, Chapter 978; January 31, 1783, Chapter 1003; September 16, 1785, Chapter 1180; March 28, 1787, Chapter 1283; December 4, 1789, Chapter 1470.

CHAPTER CMXL.

AN ACT FOR ESTABLISHING A LAND OFFICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas many of the lands in this state heretofore taken up and located under grants, warrants and