

The Board of Treasury to whom was referred a motion for repealing the ordinance of the 13th of October last, and that the board be directed to report an ordinance for the expeditious and equitable settlement of the accounts between the United States, and the individual states, beg leave to report the following ordinance ...

The **BOARD** of **TREASURY** to whom was referred a motion for repealing the ordinance of the 13th of October last, and that the Board be directed to report an ordinance for the expeditious and equitable settlement of the accounts between the United States, and the Individual States, Beg leave to report the following ordinance:—

BE it ORDAINED by the **UNITED STATES** in **CONGRESS** Assembled.

THAT five commissioners be appointed whose duty it shall be to go to the several districts hereafter mentioned, for the purpose of stating the accounts of the several states within those districts against the United States.

That the states of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode-Island, form one district.

That the states of New-York and New-Jersey, form one district.

That the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, form one district.

That the states of Virginia and North-Carolina, form one district.—And

That the states of South-Carolina and Georgia, form one district.

Library of Congress

And be it further ordained, That be, and he is hereby appointed commissioner of accounts for the four Eastern states.

That be, and he is hereby appointed commissioner of accounts for the states of New-York and New-Jersey.

That be, and he is hereby appointed commissioner of accounts for the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

That be, and he hereby appointed commissioner of accounts for the states of Virginia and North-Carolina.

That be, and he is hereby appointed commissioner of accounts for the states of South-Carolina and Georgia.

That it shall be the duty of the said commissioners, to receive of the respective states for which they are appointed, all their accounts and vouchers for payments made on account of bounties, pay, and depreciation of pay to the lat army of the United States; and for advances to the militia called out under the authority of the said states, and actually in their service; and to give descriptive acknowledgments thereof to the states from which they may be received; which accounts and vouchers shall be immediately forwarded to the commissioner of army accounts, whose duty it shall be to examine and pass such as are authorised by the resolves of Congress and supported by proper vouchers; and to state such as may not fall under the above description, together with such remarks as may tend to elucidate the nature of these claims.

That it shall further be the duty of the said commissioners, to receive in like manner, the accounts and vouchers for monies paid on the requisitions of Congress, previous to October 1781, and to forward the same to the office of the comptroller of the treasury,

Library of Congress

whose duty it shall be to reduce the same to specie value agreeably to the rate of exchange prevailing in the state at the time when payments were made.

That it shall also be the duty of the said commissioners to receive and examine all the claims of the states to which they are appointed, against the United States, for advances or disbursements by them made for the use of the late commissary, quarter-masters, cloathing, marine and hospital departments, or under any other description whatsoever, to pass upon all such as are authorized by the resolves of Congress, and supported by proper vouchers, so far as it respects the evidence offered in support of the said claims, and to state such as are not thus warranted, or supported, together with such remarks as may explain the nature of these accounts, and the reasons offered for the deficiency of vouchers.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That on all the accounts aforesaid, interest shall be allowed at the rate of six per cent per annum, agreeably to the resolves of Congress.

And whereas it is essential to the welfare of the confederacy, that the accounts of the several states should be speedily adjusted; that this adjustment should be effected on uniform principles, and that provision should be made for allowing such disbursements as may have been made by the respective states for the benefit of the union, although the same be not sanctioned by the resolves of Congress or supported by regular vouchers.

Be it therefore ordained, That the several states be, and they are hereby limited to the space of six months for exhibiting to the proper commissioner, their claims against the United States of whatever nature the same may be; and that such states as may neglect to exhibit the same within that period of time, after the commissioners has notified to the supreme executive thereof, that he is ready to proceed on the business of his commission, shall be precluded from any future adjustment; but shall nevertheless stand chargeable with all advances of money or other articles which may have been made to

Library of Congress

them respectively by the United States, and with whatever balances may be yet due on their several quotas of the general requisitions.

And be it further ordained, That the said commissioners of districts, shall within twelve months after they enter on the duties of their several appointments, repair to the place, where the United States in Congress may hold their sessions, which such accounts and vouchers as they may have in possession, and deliver the same to the comptroller of the treasury; on which their commission shall terminate.

Be it further ordained, That on the day of Commissioners be appointed by the United States in Congress assembled, whose duty it shall be to receive from the comptroller of the treasury, and from the commissioner of army accounts, all the accounts and claims of the several states deposited in their respective offices; and to examine such of the said accounts as have been passed by the commissioners of the several districts, in order that the same may be finally adjusted on uniform principles: Provided that such revision of the accounts above mentioned, shall not in any wise affect the validity of the vouchers admitted by the commissioners of the respective districts.

And be it further ordained, That wherever it shall appear to the said commissioners, that disbursements of the description aforesaid, have been made by any of the states, for articles or services, for the use of the United States, or which have had an evident tendency to promote the general welfare of the union, that the said commissioners be, and they are hereby vested with full power and authority to make such allowance for the same as they shall think consistent with the principles of general equity; although the same be not supported by regular vouchers.

And be it further ordained, That the determination of a majority of the aforesaid commissioners on the claims submitted to them, shall be final and conclusive.

Library of Congress

And be it further ordained, That the pay of the commissioners of districts, shall be at the rate of twelve hundred and fifty dollars per annum; and that of their clerks at the rate not exceeding four hundred and fifty dollars per annum each.

That the commissioners who form the board shall be allowed respectively at the rate of per annum; and that their commission, unless sooner revoked, shall continue in force for one year and a half, to be computed from the time of their appointment.

And be it further ordained, That all persons employed, or to be employed, in pursuance of this ordinance, shall, previous to entering on the duties of their office, take, and subscribe the usual oaths of office, certificates of which shall be deposited with the secretary of Congress.

And be it further ordained, That the ordinance of the 13th of October, 1786, entitled, "an ordinance for establishing a board to liquidate and settle all accounts between the United States and individual states," be, and it is hereby repealed. All which is humbly submitted, **SAMUEL OSGOOD, WALTER LIVINGSTON.** April 16, 1787.

Report of of the army for appointing 5 commissrs