

Commissary of Purchases (N. 11) that many Purchasers had been in his District, exclusive  
 of Millers, in public service, and all in the Character of French Agents and their Emisaries,  
 and that he had heard of Messrs. Tocoman and Chambers, John Ward Neary, Colo  
 Henry &c. which in his Opinion accounts for the Scarcity in the Army. It also appears to  
 your Committee, that the said Col. Ewing has this Year employed sundry Millers to purchase  
 Wheat, and manufacture for the public Use, many of whom he has furnished with  
 Money for that Purpose, and they are to return him at the Rate of 1 C. of Flour for the Price  
 of 3 Bushels Wheat weighing 60  $\frac{1}{2}$  Bushel, the Mills and Casks to be paid for exclusive  
 of the Price; tho' it does not appear they are to deliver or account for any Ship Staff or Bran.  
 It also appears, that said Millers have employed many Persons under them in various  
 parts of the Country to make Purchases for their Account.

As to the Quantity of Wheat Flour and Indian Corn purchased for public use, your Committee  
 have no Information, except as before mentioned from Mr. Richard Dutton.

It appears to your Committee that the Wheat bought for public use has been purchased at  
 various Prices, from £6 to £15 and the rise of the Market till Christmas, and in some  
 Instances till April, and that great Part of the Flour bought is to be paid for at the Price  
 of 1 C. which 3 Bushels of Wheat of which said Flour is made shall cost, so that the Price  
 which the Public is to pay for the Flour depends altogether on the Rise of Wheat, with  
 respect to Abuses committed by Persons purchasing Wheat with Licenses, it appears to your  
 Committee, by the Paper N. 16, that Francis Baker of Talbot County, hath purchased a  
 considerable Quantity of Wheat for several Millers in Cecil County, and one William Clark,  
 a Miller in the Delaware State, which Millers are under Contracts with Col. Ewing, Asis-  
 tant Commissary of Purchases, as appears by the Papers N. 11, and 17, and have, as well as  
 many others, whose Names are inserted in the Paper N. 20, received Money of the aforesaid  
 Col. Ewing wherewith to purchase Wheat to manufacture into Flour for the Use of the  
 Public, and that the said Baker was the first Person who engaged to give the Price of  
 the Market in the Neighbourhood where he purchased. And it further appears to your  
 Committee, by the Paper N. 19, that the aforesaid Clark, one of the Millers, for whom  
 said Baker has purchased Wheat, has sent a Quantity of Flour to Philadelphia, and  
 sold it for a higher Price than it would come to under his Stipulation with Col. Ewing.

It appears to your Committee that the present very high Price of Wheat, Flour, and other Pro-  
 visions, is in a great measure to be attributed to the Number of Purchasers, under a variety  
 of Denominations, such as Assistant Commissaries of Purchases, their Deputies, and others  
 acting under them, Millers and their Agents, real or pretended Purchasers for the French,  
 and an Agent for the State of Virginia; such a Variety of Interests naturally occasions  
 a Competition, and have been productive of the most mischievous Consequences; for tho'  
 the Assistant Commissaries are confined to certain Districts, yet their Deputies, Persons  
 who purchase for the Millers with the public Money, and a Number of others spread  
 over the whole Country, many of whom may have been anxious to supply the pressing  
 Demands, yet were in some measure compelled to follow the Example of a few others,  
 who, perhaps less attentive to the public Interest, or stimulated by an immoderate Thirst  
 of Gain, endeavoured to increase their Profits by making as large Purchases as possible,  
 and in Order to effect their purpose at any Rate, did not hesitate to outbid one another, as  
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