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the more they could purchase, and the higher the Price, the more their Commission would amount to. Your Committee understand, that the Deputy Commissaries are allowed 2½ Cent Commission, and it is acknowledged in our Journals, that it has been agreed to pay those who act under them 5½ Cent, but this is not permitted to appear on the Face of the Accounts, but included by charging an advanced Price, and such Charge is not provided for in the Commissaries Department; yet it is probable this may not be the worst of it, as there is but too much Reason to believe, in many Instances heretofore, that the Public have paid much more, where Persons have such an Opportunity to carve for themselves.

It further appears to your Committee, that it is almost impossible, in the present Situation of Affairs, for your Assistant or Deputy Commissaries within their several Districts to make Purchases, collect and forward Wheat, Flour, or other Provisions, without employing Persons under them to purchase and receive those Articles from the Farmer, at such Times and at such Places as are most convenient and ^{usual} ~~necessary~~. It also appears to your Committee, that many Persons, either being or pretending to be Purchasers under Mr. William Smith, Agent in this State for supplying his most Christian Majesty's Fleet and Army with Flour and other Provisions, have contributed in a great Degree to advance the Price of those Articles, by outbidding the continental Purchasers, which has tended not only to retard the Supplies and distress the Army, but must also prove injurious to our great and good City, who is engaged in a common Cause with us to carry on the war, against our most inveterate Enemy, in Order to secure our Independence and the dearest Rights and Privileges of the good People of this and the United States; strict Justice and sound Policy therefore require, that we should consider his Interest as our own, and such Supplies as we are able to afford should be furnished on the most liberal and reasonable Terms.

Your Committee therefore beg leave to suggest it as their Opinion, that the most probable and effectual Way to prevent those Abuses in future, would be to authorise the Governor and Council to appoint one or more Persons of Character and Fortune in each County (not to exceed three in any one County) to purchase Wheat, Flour, and other Provisions and Forage, for the Use of this and the United States; and that they be allowed a Commission of 5½ Cent for their Trouble, which your Committee apprehend would be a sufficient Inducement to engage Gentlemen of Reputation to undertake the Business, and who would execute it with Fidelity; that the Governor and Council give the Persons so appointed such Orders, and supply them with so much Money as they may think necessary from Time to Time out of the Money they may receive for that Purpose from the Continental Treasury; and that no Millers or other Persons be allowed to purchase under said Donations; by this means a known Saving of 2½ Cent would be made on all Purchases, as the present Deputy Commissaries would be unnecessary; and your Committee apprehend Abuses would be avoided, speedy and ample Supplies provided for your Army and Navy, and our Allies and neighbouring States which stand in need of it might be readily furnished out of the public Magazines. All which is submitted to the Consideration of the honourable House.

Signed & Order Com^{rs}. A. J. Alder &c.

Which was read.

A Petition of sundry Inhabitants of Somerset County, praying an Augmentation of the Salaries of civil Officers &c. was preferred and read.

The Bill, entitled, An Act relating to public Roads, sent to the Senate by Mr. Lottibury & Mr. Keene.

The Bill, entitled, An Act for the Relief of William Whetcroft of the City of Annapolis, sent to the Senate by Mr. Duxson and Mr. Apoclin.

The Bill, entitled, An Act relating to the ^{new} ~~high~~ Causeway, in Caroline County, sent to the Senate by Mr. Lottibury and Mr. Keene.

The Bill, entitled, An Act for establishing the Mode of Ordination of Ministers of the Church of England for the present, sent to the Senate by Mr. Keene and Mr. Williamson.