

Articles of Confederation – Document 3

Journals of the Continental Congress
December 4, 1777

Resolved, That the report of the Board of Treasury, on the regulations for the payment of the army, be referred to the new Board of War.

The Board of War brought in a report, which was taken into consideration; whereupon, Congress came to the following resolution:

Whereas, experience hath evidenced that the laws which have been enacted in the State of Pennsylvania, permitting the furnishing of substitutes to perform militia duty, have not only tended to impede the march of the militia on critical occasions, but likewise to impede the recruiting service, and to encourage desertions from the continental army:

{ Resolved, That it be submitted to the consideration of the legislature of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, forthwith to repeal the clause in the said laws which permits the hiring of substitutes to perform militia duty; and, in lieu thereof, to impose and lay such fines on those persons who neglect, or refuse to march when called forth on duty, as the said legislature shall deem adequate to personal service; the fines so levied to be appropriated as a fund for granting such additional bounties to continental recruits as the legislature may deem expedient, in order to complete the deficiencies in their quota of continental troops.¹ }

[Note 1: 1 This report, dated November 27, is in the Papers of the Continental Congress, No. 147, I, folio 399. The members of the Board present were, Francis Lightfoot Lee, William Duer, Joseph Jones, and John Harvie.]