

208th
In Congress August 7. 1778.

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The committee to whom was referred the letter of general Heath, to the board of treasury dated Nov^r 24. 1777, report,

"That they have carefully examined the files and journals of Congress so far as they respect the defence of the State of Rhode island and providence plantations, & the rise of the expedition against the island of Rhode island, and find, that at a ^{meeting of the} committee appointed by the States of Newhampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode island & providence plantations & Connecticut, convened at providence on the 25th day of December 1776, it was among other things resolved, "That it is the opinion of this committee that
" while so large a body of the enemy is in possession of Rhode-
" island, it is necessary to keep six thousand men in the State of
" Rhode island to oppose them." That the proceedings of the said committee were laid before Congress, who upon the 15th day of February 1777. Resolved, "That, considering "the situation of the
" New England States, Congress "approve of the measures,
" adopted and recommended by the committee "from the
" Lower New England States, for the defence of the State of
" Rhode island."

That on the 16th day of April 1777, Congress resolved, "That
" it be recommended to the general Assembly of the State of Rhode
" Island and providence plantations to collect with the utmost
" dispatch, the whole force thereof & there with aided by such parts
" of the militia of Massachusetts bay and Connecticut as are con-
" tiguous to the said State, to attack and destroy the enemy on
" the island of Rhode island aforesaid. Resolved, That it be and
" hereby it is recommended to the States of Massachusetts Bay
" and Connecticut to give every assistance in their power, by calling
" out the militia of their respective towns, which lie next to the
" State of Rhode island &c and to promote and execute this

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" important service. That general Washington be directed to
" appoint such general officers as he shall judge proper to carry the
" foregoing resolutions into effect. Ordered that a copy of the foregoing
" resolutions be sent by express to General Washington and ^{the} three New
" England States." — That at a meeting of the committee from
the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, Rhode
Island and New York held at Springfield 30th July 1777 it was
among other things Resolved, "That the State of Rhode-
" Island be requested to fill up their two battalions as
" soon as may be for the defence of that State. That the State of
" Massachusetts Bay be desired to hasten on the two battalions
" they have ordered for that purpose: That the State of Con-
" necticut be desired to raise and equip one battalion of 728 men
" with all speed and direct them to the above service; and that the
" State of New Hampshire be desired to raise and equip 300 men
" with all speed and direct them to the above purpose: That on
the 21st of August 1777 Congress resolved that five ships should be
" prepared to attack and destroy the British ships in the rivers
" and bays of the State of Rhode island. — "That general
" Spencer be made acquainted with the foregoing resolve and that he
" be instructed as far as possible to favour the said designs by
" such attacks or feints as he may judge proper with the troops and
" boats under his command. — That on the 13th day of January
1778, Congress resolved, " That it be earnestly recommended
" to the States of ^{New Hampshire} Massachusetts Bay, Rhode island and Con-
" necticut, immediately to furnish and keep up constantly
" in the State of Rhode island and providence plantations
" for the defence of the said State, their several quotas of troops
" as adjusted by the resolution of a committee from the said States
" & the State of New York, which met at Springfield the 30th day of
July

" July last. — That Congress on the 14th January 1778 resolved,
" That Ebenezer Hancock Esq^r deputy paymaster general
" of the eastern district, be directed forthwith to appoint an assistant
" paymaster constantly to attend and pay the army stationed
" in or near Providence for the defence of the State of
" Rhode island and Providence plantations, applying to
" Congress from time to time for the necessary supplies of
" money for the same; and that the commanding officer in
" the said State be fully empowered to draw on the said as-
" sistant paymaster for the necessary supplies of the Army afore-
" said.

That on the 17th July 1777 Congress resolved, "That
" General Spencer be informed in answer to his letter of the 20th
" May, that Congress confirm the appointment made by
" him of William Peck Esq^r deputy adjutant general to the
" militia and State troops of Rhode island kept in conti-
" nental pay; that for money to pay the said troops, he is
" to make application to Ebenezer Hancock Esq^r at Boston
" deputy paymaster general to the troops in the eastern de-
" partment, and that as the quartermaster general has the
" appointment of all his deputies, application "is to be
" made to him for the appointment of a deputy "quartermas-
" ter general." Whereupon

Resolved, That the expence of the late intended expe-
dition against the island of Rhode island be borne by the
continent. —

Extract from the minutes
Chas Thomson junr

N. Hampshire

Resolved of Congress
Aug. 7. 1778 for paying
the expenses of the Rhode
Island Expedition