

2d CONGRESS.]

No. 28.

[1st Session.]

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, APRIL 4, 1792.

Mr. IZARD, from the committee to whom the subject of weights and measures was referred, made the following report: That it is their opinion—

1. That the standard for the measures and weights of the United States be a uniform cylindrical rod of iron, of such length as, in latitude 45° in the level of the ocean, and in a cellar of uniform natural temperature, shall perform its vibrations in small and equal arcs, in one second of mean time.

2. That the President of the United States be requested to have such a standard rod provided; that it be prepared with all the accuracy which the importance of the object merits, and circumstances admit; that this be done either by actual experiments, under the parallel of 45° of latitude complete, or by actual experiments, rectified by due allowances under any other parallel, where a superiority of means for accurate experiment may promise, on the whole, greater truth in the result.

3. That the expenses of the measures he shall adopt for this purpose, not exceeding ——— dollars, be defrayed by the public.

4. That the standard rod so to be provided shall be divided into five equal parts, one of which, to be called a foot, shall be the unit of measures of length for the United States.

That the foot shall be divided into ten inches;

The inch into ten lines;

The line into ten points;

And that ten feet make a decad;

Ten decads a rood;

Ten roods a furlong;

And ten furlongs a mile.

5. That measures of surface in the United States be made by squares of the measures of length; and that in the case of lands the unit shall be a square, whereof every side shall be one hundred feet, to be called a rood:

That each rood be divided into tenths and hundredths;

That ten roods make a double acre;

And ten double acres a square furlong.

6. That the unit of measures of capacity in the United States be a cubic foot, to be called a bushel;

That each bushel be divided into ten pottles;

Each pottle into ten demi-pints;

Each demi-pint into ten metres;

That ten bushels be a quarter;

And ten quarters a last, or double ton.

7. That the unit of weights of the United States be a cubic inch of rain water, to be called an ounce, and to be measured and weighed in a cellar of uniform natural temperature:

That the ounce be divided into ten double scruples;

The double scruple into ten carats;

The carat into ten minims or demi-grains;

The minim into ten mites;

That ten ounces make a pound;

Ten pounds a stone;

Ten stones a kental;

Ten kentals a hogshead.

2d CONGRESS.]

No. 29.

[1st Session.]

PRESIDENT WASHINGTON'S OBJECTIONS TO THE BILL "FOR AN APPORTIONMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES AMONG THE SEVERAL STATES, ACCORDING TO THE FIRST ENUMERATION."

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 5, 1792.

UNITED STATES, April 5, 1792.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

I have maturely considered the act passed by the two Houses, entitled "An act for an apportionment of Representatives among the several States, according to the first enumeration;" and I return it to your House, wherein it originated, with the following objections:

First. The constitution has prescribed that Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers; and there is no one proportion or divisor which, applied to the respective numbers of the States, will yield the number and allotment of Representatives proposed by the bill.

Second. The constitution has also provided that the number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand; which restriction is, by the context, and by fair and obvious construction, to be applied to the separate and respective numbers of the States: and the bill has allotted to eight of the States more than one for every thirty thousand.

GEO. WASHINGTON.