

L. H. J. Who appoint Thomas Bordley to be their Clerk, and first proceed to the Consideration of her Majesty's Recommendation that the Gauge of Tobacco Hhds in this Province should be the same with that of Virginia. In Reference to which it's unanimously agreed by the Conferrees that the Queen be addressed that our former Gauge may be continued for that the Tobacco in Virginia being thin and Waxy they can pack three or four hundred^l Tobacco in Cask of their Size more than we can in Cask of our Size our Tobacco being thin and Chaffey; And that till her Majesty's Pleasure be known therein our Gauge. be forty Eight Inches in the Length of the Stave and the Diameter of the Heading be twenty nine Inches and not exceeding thirty two Inches and that a forfeiture of five hundred Pounds of Tobacco for each Cask exceeding the Gauge be imposed upon every Person or Cooper making or setting up any such Cask. And that if any Master Mate or Person belonging to any Ship or Vessel shall crop, squeeze or deface any Tobacco Shipped on freight the Master forfeit and pay five hundred Pounds of Tobacco for each Cask so stripped squeezed or defaced; and that in Case any Hogsheads exceeding the same Gauge shall happen to be taken on Board by any Master undiscovered at the Time of taking the same, it may be lawful or such Master to put such Tobacco on Shore, there to lie at the Risque of the Owners thereof

And as to that Part of his Excellency's Speech relating to Divulgers of false News &^{ta}

Its unanimously agreed by the said Conferrees that the Justices of the Counties have Authority to bind such Persons over to the next Court who have Power to punish them as Disturbers of the Peace and that they cannot find any Law to restrain such Reports but what will expose innocent Persons to the Malice of Informers.

Signed p Order

Tho^s Bordley Clk Conference

Which being read the House concurs therewith and desire M^r Speaker to draw up an Address to her Majesty accordingly And Orderd That the Report with the following Message be sent to his Excellency and Council

By the House of Delegates October 1st 1708

The above Report being read and debated in the House was unanimously agreed to and we humbly desire his Excellency and her Majesty's Honble Council's Concurrence therewith

Signed p Order Rich^d Dallam Cl. H. Del.

Sent up to his Excellency and Council by M^r Hudson and M^r Covington