

Samuel Hopkins, Major Roger Woolford, Major James L. H. J. Phillips, M^r Robert Tyler, Major John Ward, M^r Charles Wright and M^r Amos Garrett, who proceed to choose a Chairman, and unanimously elect the Hon^{ble} Col^o W^m Coursey to be Chairman of this Conference and William Bladen Clerk thereof

Then was read the following Proposals from his Excellency the Governor offered to the Consideration of the Assembly,

Whether it may not be proper to find some Expedient for the shipping packing and paying away Tobacco earlier in the Year than has been of late usual for that the same would prove very advantageous to the Country in General is conceived to be beyond Dispute because that the longer Tobacco hangs the more it loses in its Scent, Freshness, Substance, Weight and Goodness in every Respect and consequently is of less Value when it comes to Market being so wasted that there remains only the Shape and nothing of the Substance of Tobacco it will be an effectual Method to quicken Trade; for thereby all Purchasers as well as those that come upon Freight may with far less Expence be dispatched and Consequently the one may afford to give the better Pennyworth, and the other to go at a cheaper Freight.

And it being evident that the want of getting Cask Timber timely seasoned and fit to be set up & the Delay used by Coopers proceeding in a great Measure from the Uncertainty of their Pay is the chief Cause to the Backwardness in getting the Tobacco ready for shipping—

Whether a Law appointing a certain Time in the Year for getting such Cask Timber ready and for Coopers to set the same up would not prove very beneficial and for the Cooper's Encouragement to have his Pay upon Execution. Such a Law would certainly prove highly beneficial not only for the Dispatch in Trade but likewise in saving of the Sloops, Flats and Craft of the Country from being destroyed by the Worm; for in getting the Tobacco timely ready such Craft need not be running after the Worm bites nor the Ships forced to stay too late and be also damnified. It would be a Means to have all Tobacco come regularly and much nearer the same Time to Market and thereby all Traders be at a Certainty how to govern themselves; but if the Trade continues to have Ships drop in all the Year round the Tobacco Buyers will purchase p. 513 no more at a Time than just from Hand to Mouth :

Whereas on the contrary if all the Year's Crop went to Market much at a Time the Buyers would according to the Exigencies of their Trade purchase their whole Year's Stock