

Governor for redress (*Archiv. Md.*, xxxi, 83). An act was passed by the Assembly at this session affording a simpler and less costly legal method of evicting such trespassers and wasters, and for obtaining damages against them.

Fear of hostile Indians, and especially of the Nanticokes, a tribe which some years before had moved from Maryland to the West, led to the suspicion that members of this tribe were involved in some of the outrages of the previous summer and were now, on the pretence of hunting, acting as spies for the French. An act was therefore passed requiring all constables in the Province to make a census of the Indians in their several districts, giving the name, both Indian and English, age, and sex, of every Indian, the lists to be filed among the county records. The act further prohibited any Indian from travelling more than ten miles from the town in which he lived, but specifically exempted from its provisions ambassadors of the Six Nations en route to visit the Governor. The Lower House, May 21st, ordered a bill to be brought in to provide for the orphans of Mr. Thomas Cresap, Jr., who had been killed in a late battle with the Indians, but no such bill seems to have been introduced.

The Governor, March 16th, sent a message to the Lower House in which he stated that by action of the Council, the French neutrals lately transported into the Province from Nova Scotia, had been distributed over the Province, except to Frederick County, and that most of them were now quartered in the families of various charitable gentlemen. Those who had been landed at Oxford, in Talbot County, and in Somerset County, had been provided for respectively by Mr. Callister and Capt. Lowes until their separation, and under the Governor's orders Mr. Middleton had carried a number from Annapolis to Baltimore. The Governor declared that these gentlemen should be reimbursed for the trouble and expense they had incurred. On April 10th, Joseph L'André and the other Acadians at Oxford petitioned the Governor for relief, and on April 19th the Governor again reminded the Lower House of the plight of these unfortunate French neutrals and sent, for its information, a copy of an act just passed by the Pennsylvania Assembly for the relief of those in that colony. He also requested that a bill be prepared to prevent their removal from the counties into which they had been sent, and to intercept such as might try to reach the western frontier. The Lower House on May 3d, ordered the Committee of Laws to bring in a bill requiring the several county courts to make a levy for their support. An Act was then passed which recited that the Governor of Nova Scotia had thought it of advantage to the British interest to distribute the French inhabitants of that Province among other British colonies; that numbers had been brought to Maryland, who, out of compassion for their unhappy condition, had been permitted to land, and later distributed throughout various counties in order that they might earn their living by their own labor and industry. The