

session twenty-six members of the Lower House out of a total membership of fifty-eight were absent, and the Sergeant-at-arms had to be sent to summon them (p. 549).

Sharpe in his opening speech referred to the recent disastrous military campaigns against the enemy, and urged the Assembly to comply with the requirements of William Pitt, one of the King's principal Secretaries of State, that the several colonies immediately raise as large forces as was in their power for their defence (pp. 467-468). Letters from Pitt, dated White Hall, December 30, 1757, and from Gen. James Abercrombie, recently appointed by the King to succeed Loudoun as commander-in-chief, were laid before the Assembly. Pitt wrote that Brig. Gen. John Forbes would have immediate command of an important expedition westward to the Ohio with which the forces of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia would cooperate, and added that "all Officers of the Provincial Forces as high as Colonels inclusive are to have Rank according to their several respective Comm.^{ns} in like Manner as is already given by His Majesty's Regulations to the Captains of Provincial Troops in America". The Governor was also empowered by Pitt to commission such gentlemen of the Province, who from their "Weight and Credit" will be most effective in levying the greatest number of men, and Pitt added that the King will ask Parliament to reimburse the colonies for the extraordinary expenses that they will be put to this summer. Arms, ammunition, and tents were to be provided by the King (pp. 469-470). Abercrombie in his letter to Sharpe, dated New York, March 15, 1758, after referring to his appointment as commander-in-chief, said that while he did not care to apportion a definite number of troops for each colony to furnish, he had fixed at six thousand the troops to be raised by Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. He also directed Sharpe to lay a public and immediate embargo on all ships in the ports of the Province, to be effective until he was notified to lift it (pp. 470-471). The Lower House in a message to the Governor expressed its appreciation of the letters from Pitt and Abercrombie, to which Sharpe made an appropriate reply (pp. 551-552, 556).

The Lower House soon plunged into consideration of the Supply bill and other contentious measures. Sitting as a committee of the whole, it then proceeded to frame a £40,000 Supply bill to raise the money required for military purposes. The details of this bill with the new forms of taxation incorporated in it, which followed in a general way the bill under consideration at the late "convention of the Assembly", are discussed in another section (pp. xxviii-xxxii). It may be said here, however, that the new taxes proposed included a five per cent tax on incomes in excess of £100 annually, taxes on the land and quit rents of the Lord Proprietary, and double taxes on Roman Catholics. The bill also sought to place the appointment of the tax assessors in the hands of the Lower House, instead of in those of the Governor. These new methods of taxation, as well as the proposal of the Lower House to appoint an agent to represent it in Great Britain, were opposed in the Upper House, which also opposed a Lower House bill reducing not only the pay of the members of the Assembly but also that of other public officials. The Lower House showed