

solving this Assembly and calling a new one. The Council, by a vote of four to three recommended that he should so do, and writs of election for members of a new Lower House were issued (*Arch. Md. xxxi*, 294-295). That the Proprietary interest was to be sadly disappointed in its hope of a more pliant lower chamber, and that the new house which met on October 23, 1758, was to be largely composed of the same anti-Proprietary group, with the same truculent leaders who had controlled recent sessions, will be told in the next volume of these *Archives*.

THE SUPPLY BILLS

The story of the fate of the various "Supply bills for His Majesty's Service" that were considered during the four sessions of the Assembly which this volume covers, seems worth narrating in some detail. It was these Supply bills, whether they passed or failed, which took up most of the time of the Assembly and resulted, not only in increasing the hostility between the popular and Proprietary parties of the Province, but brought to the fore various constitutional and taxation questions that played a large part in developing the attitude of mind on the part of the people that led to the Revolution.

After a bitter struggle between the two houses, the April-May 1757 session saw the enactment of what was to be the last Supply bill for His Majesty's service that was to be passed during the Seven Years' War. As has already been fully narrated (pp. xiii-xiv), when the Assembly met on April 8, Governor Sharpe called its attention to the necessity of making immediate provision to defend the Province and to meet the Earl of Loudoun's call for a quota of at least five hundred men from Maryland (pp. 3-5). After declaring its wish to cooperate in every way in meeting all reasonable demands, the Lower House asked for detailed information as to the number of men now in service and their terms of enlistment (pp. 46, 49). From the exchange of messages between the Governor and the house it soon became evident that the use of Maryland militia for garrisoning Fort Cumberland on the Potomac at Will's Creek, was to be one of the chief subjects of contention between the two Houses. Located some seventy-five miles west of Fort Frederick by road, and therefore well within Maryland territory, Fort Cumberland was felt by the Lower House to be far beyond the actual frontier settlements, and therefore, because of its greater importance to the general plan of the British campaign, to be more the concern of the British commander-in-chief than of the Province of Maryland. The house declared that it should be manned by regular British troops and not by Maryland soldiers. With this view neither Sharpe nor Loudoun had the least patience, as they knew that, if garrisoned by Maryland soldiers, British regulars would be thus relieved for active military duty in other fields. Of course no defence can be made of this narrow, parochial view of the Lower House, nor of the restrictions which it sought to place in the Supply bill forbidding the employment of the Maryland troops beyond the settled frontier. There was also in the background the great difference of opinion between the two houses as to the sources of taxation from which the money necessary to maintain these five hundred Provincial troops was to be