

"An Act for reducing the Allowances of the Upper and Lower Houses of the Assembly", and sent to the Lower House. There it was loaded with amendments enlarging its scope, and was returned to the Upper House where it was promptly rejected (pp. 171, 195, 196). The provisions of this bill applied to the members of both houses, although it is probable that neither really wanted it passed, and that it was so framed as to insure its rejection by the other body. The Upper House rarely felt itself called upon to resort to propaganda, but in this case in the hope of putting the Lower House in the wrong before the people, it resorted to the very unusual step of ordering printed its original bill with the amendments which had been added to it in the lower chamber. If actually printed, however, no copy is known to have been preserved, and one can only speculate from the Assembly proceedings and messages as to certain of its provisions.

The amendments added in the Lower House extended the provisions of the original bill so that not only was the pay of members of the Assembly reduced, but a reduction in pay was extended to justices of the Provincial and county courts. The bill also provided that no one who had held any public office of profit under the Proprietary government, might within six years be eligible to sit in the Lower House, and contained a provision that members of the Upper House living near Annapolis should receive only half the usual allowance of 75 pounds of tobacco a day. That it did not make a reduction in pay of the members of the Lower House similarly situated seems to have been an unfortunate political blunder (pp. 323-326, 387-388).

At the February-March 1758 session, bills of the same general character were introduced independently in both houses. The Lower House bill, which reduced the pay of members of both houses and of justices, extended the reduction to clerks and all other officers of both houses. The preparation of a bill in the Upper House gave rise to a heated dispute, not only as to the provisions of the bill itself, but on the ground of parliamentary privilege, the Lower House now claiming the exclusive right to inaugurate all legislation "imposing or altering taxes". The Upper House bill, which limited its operations to members of the Assembly, was promptly passed in that house and sent to the Lower House, which entirely ignored its existence, passed its own bill, and sent that to the upper chamber. This the Upper House as promptly rejected and returned with a message that this action was so "inconsistent with all Rules of Proceeding", that it had thrown out the Lower House bill merely upon a view of its title. Nothing further was to be heard of the subject at this session (pp. 491, 519-520, 557, 572, 576-577, 588-589, 607, 638, 678-679).

EMBARGO

Strenuous efforts were made by the British authorities by sundry restrictions to prevent provisions and warlike stores shipped from the American colonies from reaching the French, especially through neutral ports in the West Indies. The Maryland Assembly at the June-July, 1755, session had passed an act to this end which had expired by limitation January 1, 1756 (*Arch. Md.*, I, 204-207). At the September-October 1756 session Sharpe, acting under orders from