

the open and the various items in dispute were discussed in detail in heated messages between the two houses. This dispute will be gone into fully elsewhere in this introduction (pp. lxiv-lxv). The Committee on Accounts, which was charged by the Lower House with the preparation of the Journal of Accounts, was also ordered by this house to investigate and report upon the accounts of the treasurers of the Eastern and Western Shores. A summary of this report will be discussed later (p. lxiv).

A committee headed by Thomas Ringgold of Chestertown, ordered to enquire into and report to the house what acts were about to expire by time limitation, reported that there were eighteen such laws (pp. 297, 299-300). Most of these laws were reenacted in their old form, but in the case of the Tobacco Inspection act, upon which the trade of the Province centered, an entirely new act was finally passed, following six weeks of heated discussion between the two houses. This so-called Tobacco Inspection act was the most important legislation passed at this session. The inspection law, as its fuller title shows, covers a much wider scope than the mere regulation of the tobacco trade. It covered not only the inspection, grading, storing, and shipping of tobacco, but also limited the fees in terms of tobacco that might be charged by all public officers, civil, judicial, and clerical, and fixed the equivalent value in Maryland tobacco of various English and foreign gold and silver coins which circulated in the colonies. The ratio of value of the foreign coins which the Lower House wished to appreciate above that established by the laws of Great Britain was the cause of a sharp dispute between this house and the Governor, who declared that he would be acting contrary to the orders of the Crown were he to approve any bill at other than the ratio established by English law. This matter will be more fully discussed elsewhere in the introduction (pp. lviii-lx).

Nearly every question which had been the subject of controversy between the two houses in previous years, came up again at the 1763 session, with the exception of the Supply or Assessment bill, now finally dead. The principal legislative bones of contention were: the disposition of licenses from ordinaries, the maintenance of a Provincial Agent in London, the adoption of the Journal of Accounts, the establishment of a college at Annapolis, an appropriation for the defense of the frontier against the Indians who were then harrying the settlements near the Cove, and back pay for the militia sent by Governor Sharpe in 1757 and 1758 for the defense of the Western frontier. The Upper House felt that the legislation as drawn up in the Lower House in all these cases involved premeditated attacks upon the prerogative of the Proprietary, either by an attempt to lessen his authority and dignity, or by the appropriation of revenues claimed by him personally. These questions are all discussed elsewhere under their several headings in this introduction. Of somewhat lesser importance but traceable to the same causes was the Upper House opposition to various other bills, which while recognized by both houses as meritorious in general purpose, were opposed by the Upper House because they contained provisions that the fines and penalties for breaking them were to be applied to public purposes, instead of going into the pockets of the