

was passed at this Assembly. Some of those thus afforded relief are known to have been in prison for more than five years. The nature of the dispute between the two houses and the abortive attempt to secure more humane legislation will be considered later in this introduction (pp. lix-lx).

The usual joint committee was appointed by both houses to report upon the condition of the Loan Office. Provincial funds set aside in the sinking funds to take up outstanding bills of credit (paper currency) when they should fall due, were invested either in bonds (loans) on real estate by the Loan Office, or in the capital stock of the Bank of England held for the Province by trustees in London. The report of this joint committee of the two houses reveals the healthy financial condition of the Province. At this time when paper money in so many of the colonies was at a great discount, the bills of credit of Maryland showed no depreciation and there was a large balance in the sinking fund. Students of Maryland finance in the colonial period will find this report on the condition of the Loan Office discussed in detail in a later section of the introduction (pp. lx-lxii).

As usual, at this session a special committee appointed for the purpose, reported on the condition of the arms and ammunition of the Province. The report, like its recent predecessors, told of the shameful neglect of the arms stored in various places in Annapolis. The report will be found discussed elsewhere (pp. lxii-lxiii).

The struggle between the two houses of the Assembly in regard to the adoption of the Journal of Accounts had prevented for several years provision being made for back pay to certain Maryland soldiers, officers of the late war, who on account of notable service were especially deserving of consideration. Petitions were presented at this session urging the claims of various officers. The committee appointed by the Lower House passed upon these claims, and in a report to the house stated to what allowances they were severally entitled. The bill passed by the Lower House providing for the payment of certain expenses incurred in the late war was rejected in the upper chamber, which declared that it would not receive its assent because there were other creditors of the Province equally entitled to payment. These claims by officers are discussed more fully later (pp. lxv-lxvii).

On December 20 the Lower House sent an address to the Governor calling his attention to the fact that the treasurers of the two shores had been very remiss in their duties, and had presented no accounts either at the last, or the present session, although it was notorious that they had in their hands large sums of money belonging to the public, raised under acts requiring accounts to be laid before the Assembly at each session. The Governor was requested to order the bonds of the treasurers to be put in suit for this neglect (p. 260). At this time the Treasurer of the Western Shore was Charles Hammond, and of the Eastern Shore Edward Lloyd. Both were members of the Council.

On November 15 the Lower House appointed two special committees to report on controversial subjects involving the relations between the Lord Proprietary and the people. A committee of ten headed by James Hollyday was ordered to report its opinion by what right the Lord Proprietary took to him-