

submit them before the seventeenth day of April. Any one who wished "to overlook the Execution of the Plan" should apply at the same time (*Maryland Gazette*, Jan. 4, 1770).

Another general act passed at the session of the Assembly which met during November and December, 1769, dealt not with a financial matter, but with the administration of justice. The law was entitled "An Act for preventing the Evil occasioned by Continuance of Suits at Law on Suggestion of want of Evidence from beyond the Sea." In order to prevent long drawn out lawsuits this act required a party to a suit to make an affidavit that a material witness, whom he had tried to procure, was absent. Otherwise the case must come up for trial (pp. 167-168).

Two new supplementary acts were passed at the November-December session which also were connected with the administration of justice. One was entitled "A Supplementary Act to the Act entitled an Act for the Direction of Sheriffs in their Offices and restraining their ill Practices within this Province." This act required sheriffs, who took any mortgage, promissory note, or bill of exchange, to endorse on it an account of the consideration for which it was passed (pp. 151-153). This supplemented the original act of 1715 (*Arch. Md.* XXX, 264-270).

The other supplementary act was entitled "An Additional Supplementary Act to the Act entitled an Act to prevent the abuses of concealing convicted Felons and other Offenders imported into this Province and for the better Discovery of Them." As the preamble recited, this act sought to prevent felons from passing as reputable persons or being accepted as witnesses (pp. 165-167). The original act was enacted in 1728 (*Arch. Md.* XXXVI, 298-302) and the first supplementary act in 1729 (*ibid.* 492-493).

The General Assembly which met from September 25 to November 2, 1770, passed three new general laws regarding the judicial system. One of these laws was entitled "An Act for Abolishing June County Courts and for other Purposes therein mentioned." As it was found that holding the court during June interfered with "the necessary Business of the People," August instead of June was selected for holding the county courts (pp. 313-314). Because so many of its members were sick or at the meeting of the General Assembly was the reason for the passage of "An Act for the Adjournment and Continuance of the High Court of Appeals and for the Adjournment of the Provincial Court and other Purposes therein mentioned" (pp. 314-315). In order to break up the practice of some of the County Clerks who took home with them County Court records was the object of "An Act to oblige the several County Clerks to have with them on their Office Days the four last Court Dockets and papers" (p. 321).

No general acts were passed by the General Assembly which met from November 5 to November 21, 1770.

GENERAL ACTS EXPIRING, MODIFIED OR CONTINUED, 1769-1770

During each of the three sessions held during 1769-1770 the Lower House appointed a committee to enquire what laws would expire unless continued