

(pp. 40, 209-210, 387). It should be explained here that many of the laws were passed with a three year duration provision and were to continue in force thereafter until the close of the Assembly which met after the end of the three year period. This was done in order to prevent the province being without a particular law should no session of the Assembly be held during the three years following the enactment of that law.

On November 21, 1769, the committee which had been appointed to investigate what laws would expire during the session, which opened on November 17, made their report. They stated that eleven acts would expire at the end of that session unless continued. Only two of these laws, however, were allowed to expire. They were: "An Act to prevent the Mischiefs arising from the Multiplicity of useless Dogs, and other Purposes therein mentioned," and "An Act for Tryal of all Matters of Fact in the several Counties where they have arisen or shall arise" (pp. 40, 44-45).

The original act regarding "dog licensing" has been the subject of much discussion in the General Assembly before it became a law during the November-December session held in 1765 (*Arch. Md.* LIX, xiii, xxxiv, 274-278). The law was again debated at the session held in November and December of 1766. As a result an act supplementary to the original act of 1765 was passed (*Arch. Md.* LXI, xxxvii-xxxviii, 241-242). As no steps were taken during the Assembly which convened on November 17, 1769, to renew the act of 1765, or the one supplementary thereto, both expired when the session ended in December.

It was during the May, 1766, session that the General Assembly passed the act in regard to the trial of matters of fact in the several counties (*Arch. Md.* LXI, xxiv-xxv, 75-82). Since no action was taken to continue this law, it, too, expired (pp. 183, 189, 274).

The General Assembly met twice during 1770. The first session lasted from September 25 to November 2: the second session from November 5 to November 21. On September 27, soon after the opening of the first session, the committee investigating what general laws would expire unless reenacted reported that two laws came within that category. One of these laws was "An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco for preventing frauds in his Majesty's Customs and for the Limitation of Officers fees." This act by its terms would expire on October 1, 1770, unless renewed (pp. 123, 212). The Assembly which met September 25 to November 2, 1770, continued the act in force only until October 22 (p. 308). As no favorable action was taken to extend the act beyond that date it expired at that time. The act and its importance are discussed elsewhere in this introduction (pp. xxvii, xxix-xxxi).

The other general law which it was reported would expire unless continued was "An Act for the speedy and effectual Publication of the Laws of this Province and for the Encouragement of Ann Catherine Green of the City of Annapolis, Printer" (p. 212; also see *Arch. Md.* LXI, lxxxiv-lxxxvi, 455-458). According to the provisions of this law it would be effective until December 25, 1770 (pp. 156-159). No action being taken to extend the act beyond that date at either of the sessions of the Assembly held during 1770 it expired at that