

Immediately upon returning to Mr. Frazier's house, the Lower House appointed a committee to draft a bill for the regulation of tobacco and for preventing frauds in his Majesty's Customs. The title of the act which finally passed is the same as that of the bill rejected a little earlier, most of the members of the committee were the same, and, though the text of the abortive bill is not at hand, it was probably the same as that of the act as passed. The committee reported the desired bill the next morning, it was read the first and second time by special order that afternoon and was passed unanimously without a record vote. A resolution of the House directed that it be carried to the Upper House by the Speaker and the whole house, and on the morning of November 18, a scant two days after the opening of the session, "Mr. Speaker attended by all the Members of the Lower House" took it up as directed (pp. 42-43, 86).

This matter of sending the bill up by the Speaker and the House shows the importance the House attached to the bill, and their solidity behind it. The regular practice was to send a communication by two members of the Lower House: if the matter concerned one county, the two chosen were usually from that county's delegates. Sending several members meant that the House was emphasizing the importance of what they had to say; five members, for example, brought up the bill for the regulation of officers' fees (p. 56). Once in a while a bill that touched all parts of the Province was entrusted to a committee of one member from each county. Now the House formally resolved that the Inspection bill be presented by the Speaker and the entire Lower House.

On the morning of November 19, the bill was read the first time in the Upper House, and was laid on the table (p. 43). It occupies thirty-eight pages in the manuscript liber of laws, and forty-two pages here in this volume (pp. 151-192); and it would be interesting to know whether poor Dr. Upton Scott, the clerk of the Upper House, really read the bill entire, or by title only. But at any rate, the Upper House did almost nothing for the next three days except to adjourn and meet again according to adjournment (pp. 42-46). When it did get to work on the huge bill, on November 25, it too, like the Lower House, acted quickly. Unanimously it amended it by removing one warehouse in St. Mary's County, and by limiting the life of the bill to three years instead of the Lower House's fourteen years. The Lower House accepted the amendments (pp. 95-96), the bill was engrossed (p. 97) and sent again to the Upper House with the paper bill thereof by Mr. Wooton and Mr. Veazy (p. 105). On November 30, the Governor passed it into a law in the usual form (p. 107). Although the Upper House had specifically limited the life of the act to three years instead of the fourteen years proposed by the Lower House, and the Lower House had accepted the change, even before the formalities of passage were complete, a bill was introduced and passed easily for the further continuance of the act for regulating the staple of tobacco for a term of twelve years (pp. 77, 81, 150, 269).

The speed with which the Inspection Act of 1773 was passed showed how important the subject was, but it is also true that the real points of difficulty had already been settled before it was introduced. Save for a few details, the