

Eight Naval Officers were appointed under the new state government in April, 1777.¹⁹

The functions of a province Naval Officer, like those of a Treasurer, were twofold. He entered and cleared all vessels within his district; and he collected the provincial and, after 1716/7, the proprietary duties. At all times he collected the duties for support of government and for the Governor's support, which were royal under the crown and proprietary after His Lordship's restoration. He paid the proceeds of provincial duties to the Treasurer of his shore. All other duties collectable by him were paid to Baltimore's Agent and Receiver General or, under royal administration, to the crown Receiver.²⁰

By an act of June, 1692, the Assembly had given the provincial Naval Officers forty shillings for entering or clearing any ship other than the sloops trading to and from Virginia. On these the fee was to be thirty shillings. A more detailed schedule, enacted in October, 1694, provided identical fees for province Naval Officers and crown Collectors. These persisted to the end of colonial times.²¹ They were payable in money, but as the law had failed to specify sterling, Naval Officers were obliged, soon after 1743, to accept the local currency, circulating at about half the value of sterling.²²

Province Naval Officers had also a commission on the duties they collected. This amounted to eight percent on those pro-

list of 1754 does not mention that of Cecil County; and Gov. Sharpe's account of the Maryland offices, in 1761, speaks of only five Naval Offices. On these lists see note 25 below.

¹⁹ These new appointees, in the numerical order of their districts, were: Meverel Lock, George Biscoe, John Davidson, Thomas Sollers, Robert Dennis, Zachariah Campbell, Jeremiah Banning, and William Geddes.

²⁰ By an act of Parliament "for Preventing Frauds and Regulating Abuses in the Plantation Trade" (7 and 8 William III, 1696) a Naval Officer was required to give security to the Commissioners of the Customs in London (*Archives*, XXIII, 70, 116). He had also to give bond to the Governor in the penal sum of £ 500 or £ 1000 sterling, depending on the value of his office, for due collection of the provincial duties. After Henry Darnall's dismissal, as Naval Officer of Patuxent, in 1761, Baltimore ordered this provincial office bond raised to £ 1500 or £ 2000 and required a separate bond to himself for the collection and payment of proprietary duties (Calvert Paper No. 654, Md. Historical Society). Like customs officers, Naval Officers were expected to abstain from trade, but in point of fact they seldom did so. See the case of Philip Lee, Naval Officer of North Potomac, in June, 1741 (*Archives*, XXVIII, 242).

²¹ A parliamentary act of 10 George III, c. 37 (1770) removed Naval Officers' fees from the control of colonial assemblies but did not alter them.

²² *Archives*, XL, 367; XLII, 662, 670; Portfolio No. 3, folder 30, Hall of Records).