

made two year contracts at fifteen percent.⁷⁴ On expiration of these he ordered the sheriffs to farm the quit-rents at ten percent.⁷⁵ This was at the suggestion of Secretary Cecilius Calvert, who knew, he said, at least seven reasons why the sheriffs would be the best and cheapest farmers.⁷⁶ Experience however proved him wrong. The sheriff was too much engaged in other matters; and farming at so low a rate could be profitable only to one with several counties in his charge.⁷⁷ The farming of quit-rents to private persons, at discounts of ten or fifteen percent, was consequently resumed in 1767.⁷⁸ They ceased to act in 1775.

⁷⁴ See Lord Baltimore's additional instructions to Gov. Horatio Sharpe, March 30, 1753, and Horatio Sharpe to Cecilius Calvert, May 3, 1754 (Portfolio No. 2, folder 4(1), par. 78, Hall of Records; *Archives*, VI, 60).

⁷⁵ Horatio Sharpe to Cecilius Calvert, Oct. 20, 1755 (*Ibid.*, VI, 295). By 1756 this new method seems to have produced some increase, perhaps twelve or fifteen percent, in the proprietor's income (Calvert Paper No. 953, Md. Historical Society).

⁷⁶ Cecilius Calvert's plan for collecting the quit-rents, May 4, 1753; Cecilius Calvert to Agent Edward Lloyd, March 9, 1756 (Black Books, XI, 22, Hall of Records; Calvert Paper No. 1181, Md. Historical Society).

⁷⁷ Edward Lloyd to Cecilius Calvert, Dec., 1755, quoted in Cecilius Calvert to Edward Lloyd, March 9, 1756; Horatio Sharpe to Lord Baltimore, Aug. 15, 1765 (Calvert Paper No. 1181; *Archives*, XIV, 213-14).

⁷⁸ Horatio Sharpe to Lord Baltimore, March, 1767 (*Ibid.*, XIV, 375-76). On the commissions offered the various farmers see *Ibid.*, XXXII, 409, 447, 488.