

Mr Joseph Pitt of the Market Mr Joseph Stanfon, Mr Samuel Hopkins Major John
Woodford Major James Phillips Mr Robert Sydes Major Frederick Mr Charles Wright
and Mr James Garret.

Who proceed to chuse a Chairman and unanimously elect the Honble Mr
Courtley to be Chairman of this Conference and Mr Baden Cooke thereof

Then was read the following Proposall from his Excellency
Offered to the Consideration of the Assembly

Whether it may not be proper to find some expedient for the shipping
Drying and paying away ^{the} ~~the~~ earlier in the year than has been of late
for that the same would prove ^{very} advantageous to the Country in general if it were
to be beyond dispute, because that the longer Tobacco hangs the more it loses
in its scent, Freshness, Substance, weight & goodness in Every Respect and
consequently is of less Value when it comes to Market being so wanted that there
remains only the Shape and no thing of the substance of Tobacco

It will be an Effectual Method to quicken Trade for thereby all purchasers as well
as those that come upon Freight may with far less Expence be dispatched and
consequently the one may afford to give the other penny worth and the other to
go at a cheaper Freight. And it being evident that the want of getting Cash
timely ^{is} Reason and fit to be set up and the delay ^{is} by Copers

proceeding in a great Measure from the uncertainty of their pay if the chief
cause of this backwardness in getting the Tobacco ready for shipping - whether
a Law appointing a certain time in the year for getting such Cash timber
ready and for Copers to sell the same up would not prove very beneficial and
for the Copers Encouragement to have their pay upon Execution - which
Law should certainly prove highly beneficial not only for the dispatch
in Trade but likewise in saving of the Hoop, Flatt and Caskey Country
from being destroyed by the worm. For in getting the Tobacco timely ready the
Cask need not be running after the worm but nor the Ship forced to stay
long and be also damaged - It would be a means to have all Tobacco
regularly and in such time to market and thereby all Buyers
to get a Certainty how to govern themselves - but if the Trade continued to have
their Trade purchase their whole year Stock at Once and thereby in all probability
the price of that Commodity would likewise be kept up - May the 6th 1715

And Resolved by Majority of Votes that it would be of great advantage all
should be got ready to be shipped earlier than usually it has been of late years
that it would be prejudicial to the good people of the Province that any
time should be allotted for the shipping of Tobacco - After which it was con-
sidered whether the Planters should not be obliged to have their Cash Timber
by a certain time in every year

And whether it may not be fit to oblige the Copers to sell up their Tobacco
at a certain time, and agreed to by the Majority of the Committee that it may

(15)