

the 6th day of May in the first year of the Reigne of our Sovereign Lord King George of Great Britain & Anno Domini 1715. to consider how to advance the Staple of this Province by having all Tobaccos packed and shipped more early in the year - Present of his Majesty's Honorable Council - The Honorable Mr Courtenay, Col. Samuel Green, Col. Thomas Addison and Lt. Col. Tilghman - of the house of Delegates Col. Matthew Tilghman Trade, Capt. Thomas Inman Greenfield, Capt. F. Legas Cooke, Mr. Joseph Hill, Col. J. Mackell, Mr. Joseph Harrison, Mr. Samuel Hopkins Major Roger Woolfield Major James Phillips Mr. Robert Tyler, Major John Trade, Mr. Charles Wright and Mr. Amos Serrett - who proceeded to choose a Chairman and unanimously elect the Honorable Mr Courtenay to be Chairman of this Conference and Mr. Bladen Clerk thereof -

Then was read the following Proposall from His Excellency of Gov. offered to the Consideration of the Assembly.

Whether it may not be proper to find some expedient for the Shipping Packing and paying away Tob. earlier in the year than has been of late usuall for that the same would prove very advantageous to the County in general is conceived 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 wasted that there remains only the shape and no thing of the substance of Tob.?

It will be an ineffectual 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 better penny worth and the other to go at a cheaper Freight - And it being evident that the want of getting Casp. timber timely seasoned and fitt to be set up and the delay used by Cooper's proceeding in a great Measure from the uncertainty of their pay is the chief Cause of the backwardness in getting the Tobacco ready for Shipping - Whether a Law appointing a certain time in the year for getting such Casp. timber ready and for Cooper's to get the same up would not prove very beneficial and for the Cooper's encouragement to have his pay upon Execution - Such a Law would certainly prove highly beneficial not only for the dispatch of Trade but likewise in saving of the Loss, Gluts and Craft of yr. County from being destroyed by the worm - For in getting the Tobacco timely ready such Craft need not be ruining after the worm holes nor the Ships forced to stay so late and be alsoe damaged - It would be a means to have all Tob. come regularly in at about the same time to Market and thereby all Traders be at a certainty how to govern themselves - but if the Trade continue to have ship's dropp in all the year rounde, the Tobacco