

At a Conference appointed by both Houses of Assembly, to regulate the several Officers Fees, on Friday the 30th Day of August, 1745,

W E R E P R E S E N T

- The Honourable James Hollyday, Esq;
- Benjamin Young, Esq;
- Mr. Philip Hammond,
- Dr. Charles Carroll,
- Col. Thomas Colwill,
- Col. Henry Hooper,
- Major Thomas Sberedine,
- Mr. Robert Lloyd,

of the Upper House
 Of the Lower House:

Who make choice of Richard Dorsey to be their Clerk.

THE Conferrees of the Upper House proposed, that the Duration that the Bill should have, be first considered; upon which, the Conferrees of both Houses agreed to refer back to their respective Houses, for Instruction thereon.

At the next Meeting, the Conferrees of the House of Delegates delivered it as the Sense of their House, that the Duration of the Bill should be seven Years, and to the End of the next Session of Assembly that should happen after the Expiration of the said seven Years: Which the Conferrees of the Upper House declared to be agreeable to the Sense of their House.

Then the Conferrees of the House of Delegates further delivered it as the Sense of their House, that the several Officers Fees be settled in Tobacco: To which the Conferrees of the Upper House agreed.

Whereupon the Conferrees of the House of Delegates proposed to go into a thorough Examination of the said Fees; and where they are too high, to bring them into a reasonable Consideration for the Service; and where too low, to raise them to an adequate Reward: And if any Disagreement intervene as to a reasonable Compensation for any Service, that the Laws of the neighbouring Colonies of Virginia and Pennsylvania should be a Guide as to the Sums allowed for the like Services.

The Conferrees of the Upper House, in Answer thereto, say, that they will not allow of such Laws as a Precedent; but that the Conferrees of the House of Delegates might have them, and steal from them, as they pleased.

The Conferrees of the House of Delegates observed, as the Copying, Recording, and Searches, are considerable Parts of the Services in the several Offices, and such Copying and Recording is a Basis for many other Services, and may tend to the adjusting the same; the said Conferrees therefore proposed, That Eight Pounds of Tobacco for every Hundred and five Words, be the Consideration for Copying and Recording, in the Commissary's, Secretary's, Land Office, and Court of Appeals; and that all Searches above One Year be Fifteen Pounds of Tobacco generally, in such Offices; which is Fifty per Cent. more, for Copying and Recording, than is allowed for the like Services in Virginia, where Tobacco is the Species paid: And the like Services being done in the Province of Pennsylvania for Four Pence Halfpenny, their Currency, per Side.

That the Commissary-General charge no Fees, where the Business is done by their Deputy, and that no Fees be paid for any Estates under Thirty Pounds, or that such Estates be deemed Paupers.

In Answer to which the Conferrees of the Upper House say, that their House are willing to come down to Nine Pounds of Tobacco per Side. As to Searches, they will come into the Proposition of Fifteen Pounds of Tobacco generally: And in Relation to the Commissary-General taking Fees for granting Administrations, when granted by his Deputies, that Provision shall be made in the Bill to prevent such Practice for the future; and that the Commissary-General had conceded that such Estates shall be deemed Paupers. And at the same Time proposed, that all Fees be reduced to a Medium between those taken by his Lordship's Proclamation, and those inserted in the Bill lately rejected by their House: That Naval Officers Fees be left out, as a Law subsists in relation to them; and that Provision be made for Examiners Fees.

Which Proposition of a Medium being rejected by the Conferrees of the House of Delegates, according to the Direction of their House, then the Conferrees of the Upper House proposed a Reduction of Twenty per Cent. or one fifth Part, from all Fees, as they stand in his Lordship's Proclamation; to which the Conferrees of the House of Delegates answer, that it is the Sense of their House that they accept of the Abatement of Twenty per Cent. or the fifth Part, on the Fees rated in the Proclamation; that Recording and Copying in the Secretary's, Commissary's, Land Office, and Court of Appeals, be at Eight Pounds of Tobacco per Side; Provided, Searches stand at Fifteen Pounds of Tobacco generally, above a Year; and that the Commissary-General receive no Fees for Services done by his Deputies; and that Estates at Thirty Pounds or under be deemed Paupers, and pay no Fees, as agreed.

The Conferrees of the Upper House say, that their House will not agree that Copying and Recording be less than Nine Pounds of Tobacco per Side in the said Offices; and deny that they had agreed to the Sum of the Searches, or Articles relating to the Commissary-General: Whereupon the said Conference ends.

All which is humbly submitted to the Consideration of the House.

Signed per Order Conferrees Lower House, RICHARD DORSEY, Clerk.

On Reading of which the House concurs therewith.

On Reading the Message of Wednesday, from the Upper House, by Col. Hammond, a Question was put, Whether this House will now Answer the said Message in all it's Parts? Resolved in the Affirmative: And Ordered, That the Committee of Laws prepare an Answer accordingly.

FOR the AFFIRMATIVE,

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| Mr. G. Wilson, | Mr. Henry Hall, | Mr. Courts, | Mr. Hyland, | Mr. Addison, |
| —Harris, | —Smith, | —W. Wilkinfon, | —Paca, | —Bodley, |
| —Carroll, | —Joseph Hall, | —N. Goldsborough, | —John Hall, | —Pemberton, |
| —P. Hammond, | —Brome, | —Lloyd, | —Wootton, | —T. Hammond, |
| —Worthington, | —Mackall, | —Hooper, | —Sprigg, | |