

and to that Part of your second Remark on the same Page and Section, which relates to the Weight of Tobacco: To that Part of your Remark on Page 24, Section 65, which relates to re-weighing Tobacco, and to leaving out Section 139. We likewise agree to include in a New Law, all the necessary and proper Parts of the Supplementary Laws. We think it needless to make your proposed Addition to the Inspectors Oath, as that Addition, and every other Branch of his Duty, is included in the General Terms of the Oath.

We cannot agree to your Amendment of Page 4, Section 11, as to the Commencement of the Inspectors constant Attendance; the Month of *March* is generally very bad Weather, and there is but little Tobacco at that Time carried to the Warehouses, and that, only by People who have particular Occasions for their Tobacco, which they have a Right to have inspected whenever they please to call upon the Inspectors.

Nor can we think it reasonable to close the Inspection the last of *June*; the Business of Farming and Planting are very much intermixed in most Parts of the Province, which a good deal retards the Planter in preparing his Tobacco for Inspection, and we think, in a general Way, renders it impracticable to do it by the last of *June*, consistent with the Farming Part of his Affairs.

We cannot agree to your last Remark on Page 6, Section 15, because we are of Opinion, that the real Shrinkage may, in many Instances, exceed 4 per Cent, and that the unavoidable Waste attending the handling of the Transfer Tobacco, frequently brings a Loss upon the Inspector.

Upon our best Consideration of the Time necessary to be allowed the People for Payment of the Public, and for the Sheriff to make his Payments, we cannot agree to your Remarks upon Page 9, Section 29 and 30.

The Amendment you propose of Page 25, Section 67, we cannot agree to: Many light Crop Hogheads lay a good while in the Warehouses, get dry, and are sometimes badly packed, and in such Cases they are more difficult to make heavy than Transfer Tobacco; so that we think, obliging the Inspector to make such Tobacco 1000 Weight, will impose too great a Hardship on him.

Your Remark on Page 28, Section 80, we cannot agree to. The People generally raise Money for the Public Payments, by the Produce of the Year past, and they cannot, we think with tolerable Convenience, do it sooner than against the tenth of *April*.

We cannot agree to your Amendment of Page 13, Section 35. The dropping *Baltimore* Warehouse will bring a very great Hardship on a Number of poor People.

Your Amendments of Page 29, Section 83, 84, 85, 87, as to the Alterations of Time depending upon the same Reason as those on Page 28th, Section 80, we of Course object to.

Your Amendment of Page 41, 42, Section 119, we oppose for the Reasons objected to your Remark on Page 9, Section 29 and 30.

Your Amendment of Page 43, Section 125, we cannot agree to: By the proposed Alteration, in this Part, the Monies therein mentioned, are made to discharge just the same Quantities of Tobacco they do as the Law now stands, and in that respect works no real Difference; but being confined to the discharge of Tobacco Claims only, the People will lose the Advantage they now have of Paying, not only those Tobacco Claims, but their Inspection Expences, with those Species of Money, and of Course, your Amendment is apparently to their Prejudice.

We are totally at a Loss to conceive upon what Principles your Honours can expect we should come into a Change of all the Expences of executing the Inspection Law, and of the Alternative given to those who do not make Tobacco, from Current Money to Sterling.

The People of this Province do not, without great Difficulty, procure enough of that Species of Money to discharge their Quit Rents, and yet, your Proposals in this Respect, would increase that Difficulty on those who make Tobacco, by adding to their Sterling Engagements, and would give those who do not make Tobacco, the Shadow, rather than the Reality, of an Alternative. Perhaps, if we could happily light upon the Reasons, which induced your Honours to think them Amendments proper, we might change our present Sentiments; but as they are really quite beyond our Comprehension, and the Law as it stands in this respect, is universally satisfactory to the People, we cannot consent to an Alteration so prejudicial, in our Opinions, to the Interest of those we represent.

Your Proposal to abolish the 72d, 73d, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, and 138th Sections, which provide for the Reduction of old Tobacco Debts, and against the Crafts and Subtilties of those who have fallen upon Measures to evade it, we cannot adopt, because we are well convinced that there are many of those Debts still in Being, tho' under the Cover of oppressive Changes into Money, and we doubt not but your Honours, when satisfied of a bare Probability of the Fact, will readily contribute your Aid to the Relief of those poor People, who have been unwarily drawn in, to submit to Evasions so vile and dishonest. The Clauses you object to, can work no Injury to the honest Creditor, but the Omission of them may greatly affect the injured Debtor; and this Consideration we assure ourselves will be a Motive sufficient to induce you to decline insisting upon the proposed Alteration.

In the Course of our Deliberations on the Subject of a new Inspection Law, some Alterations and Amendments of the Old, have occurred to us, which we now lay before your Honours for your Consideration; and are in Hopes you will not think them unreasonable or unnecessary.

1. That the Inspection be closed on the last Day of *July*, instead of the Twentieth of *August*.