

Situation as a Factor, he could not incur the Expense necessary to be laid out  
in founding Cannon and boring the same, unless he had a Moral Certainty  
that his owners should be no losers by undertaking the business. That the  
work for boring Cannon and other apparatus was expensive and a  
work that would require some time before it could be brought to  
perfection, and that he did not think he could furnish 40 eighteen pounders  
in less than four months from this time. That he was going to Philadelphia  
at the request of Mr. Alexander in expectation of hearing proposals from the  
Congress on the subject of founding Cannon, and should be better able to judge  
whether it would be worth while to undertake the business and would  
expect to hear from us on his return.

Council adjourned till to-morrow Morning 10 o'clock.

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 1746.

Council met. Present the same Members as yesterday.

Ordered, That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to Mr. Hercules Cou-  
tenay two hundred and eleven pounds and two pence Currency, being  
the Balance due him from this Province as per account filed.

Ordered, That a letter in the following words be sent to the Brigadier  
General of this Province respectively

Baltimore Town January 31<sup>st</sup> 1746.

Sir,

We are desirous of knowing what number of Muskets are in the  
hands of the Militia of your Brigade, either belonging to the public or to  
individuals, we request you'll furnish us with an account of them as  
soon as you conveniently can, distinguishing to what Companies they  
respectively belong, and those which are good and serviceable from what  
are unfit for use. And that you recommend to and earnestly admonish  
those of your Militia whose guns are out of repair, and whose circum-  
stances will admit of it, to have them immediately put into good order; but  
that if the owners of any such guns cannot, from their poverty, repair  
them and they are only defective in the locks, that you have the same  
repaired and rendered fit for use at the public expense. Writing imme-  
diately to the Colonels and other inferior officers we recommend as the  
best Method of gaining information in the above particulars.

We are very Respectfully, Sir,

Yr. M<sup>o</sup>. ob<sup>d</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

(Signed by the Council)

A Conference was had with Mr. Keock and Mr. Manspenbaugh on the  
Subject of Fortifications.

The Council called on Messrs. Keener, Messersmith and  
Reddick to know what quantity of Muskets they had made for the use  
of this Province in consequence of their Contracts with Mr. Alexander.  
Mr. Keener reported that he had made thirty. Mr. Messersmith that he