

the sheriff for his contempt and bring him before the Lower House. As Lee had gone to Virginia it was impossible for this order to be carried out (pp. 46, 48, 51, 67-68, 73-74).

The Delegates now resolved that a message should be sent to Governor Eden requesting him to remove Lee from his office of sheriff. This was done. In the address to the Governor the condition and size of the room in which Lee had confined his prisoners was mentioned and how he had one of them whipped by a slave. Eden promised the Lower House to make a full investigation (pp. 74, 86-88, 91 : see also Appendix VIII and Volume XXXII of the *Archives* which contains numerous references to this case).

After hearing all the evidence, the Governor and his Council decided to keep Lee in office (*Arch. Md.* XXXII, 367-368). The Lower House only succeeded in making Lee pay for the costs of Doncastle's and Wright's complaints of maltreatment (p. 116).

LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS

NEW GENERAL ACTS OR NEW ACTS SUPPLEMENTARY TO OLD GENERAL ACTS, 1769-1770

A general act was one which applied to the province as a whole. During the session of the General Assembly, which met in November and December of 1769, one of the most important acts of that character which was passed was entitled "An Act for emitting Bills of Credit and other Purposes therein mentioned." As the preamble to the law stated, it was thought that an issuance of bills of credit would expedite the carrying on of trade and commerce in the colony (pp. 133-151). Similar financial questions had arisen during previous sessions of the General Assembly (*Arch. Md.* LXI, xxxii, xcix-cii, 264-275; *ibid.* LIX, lx, lxii).

Several notices appeared in the *Maryland Gazette* in regard to the new bill. In the issue for November 30, 1769, it is stated that it is understood that the Lower House had resolved to bring in a bill for emitting bills of credit, on loan, to the amount of 300,000 dollars, in order to supply the province with a circulating medium at the time much needed. In subsequent issues of the same newspaper there were printed notices by the Commissioners appointed under this act that their office would be open on a certain day for the issuance of new bills of credit (*Maryland Gazette*, Mar. 1, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 30, Sept. 6, 1770). The Governor had appointed Robert Couder (or Couden) and John Clapham commissioners for emitting bills of credit (*ibid.* Jan. 4, 11, 1770).

A notice in the *Maryland Gazette* on December 28, 1769, calls attention to the fact that in "An Act for emitting Bills of Credit, or other Purposes therein mentioned; a Sum of Money, not exceeding £7500 Sterling, is appropriated to the building an Edifice, in this City where the present Stadt-House now stands, sufficient to accommodate the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, the High Court of Appeals, Chancery and Provincial Courts, of this Province." A few days later the superintendents appointed under the terms of the same act published a notice requesting any who had "Plans and Estimates" should