

*Weights and measures.* The maintenance of the correct standards of weights and measures was a matter of great importance to the public. It may be recalled that at the October–November, 1763, session a bill was introduced to strengthen the act relating to the standard of English weights and measures, and that this bill failed of passage because the Upper House had amended the bill as it had been passed by the lower chamber, by giving to the Lord Proprietary one third of any fines collected for its violation, fines which under the Lower House bill were to be equally divided between the public and the informer (*Arch. Md.* LVIII; xxxvii). When the bill was again passed by the Lower House at the 1765 session the Upper House did not bring up its former demand, and it became a law without further controversy between the two houses, although under it the fines were to be equally divided between the informer and the public, and to be applied as the Assembly might direct (pp. 262-263).

*Apprentices.* Difficulties about apprentices were a constant cause of litigation and took up a great deal of the time of the county courts. A bill was introduced in the Lower House under the title “an act to ease the Inhabitants of this Province to bind out the persons therein mentioned apprentices”. It passed the Lower House but was rejected by the Upper House (pp. 171, 177, 184, 199, 73, 75, 204). The nature of the bill is not revealed by the journal of either house, but an examination of the act with a similar title, passed at the November–December, 1766, session, doubtless discloses the general purport of the bill (Hanson’s *Laws of Maryland made since MDCCLXIII; 1787; acts of 1766, chapter XV*). The act of 1766 made provision for apprenticing children whose fathers had left the Province, or had removed to other counties, without providing for their support, but restricted the selection by the court to masters or mistresses who were Protestants.

*Roman Catholics.* The Roman Catholic question, although smouldering, did not flare up at this session. It will be recalled that an attempt had been made at the March–April, 1761, session, and again at the 1763 session, to rectify the injustices suffered by alien or unnaturalized landholders, and purchasers of land from them, in the matter of their land titles. But at both sessions, because the Lower House would only assent to a bill which discriminated in favor of Protestant landholders and penalized Roman Catholic landholders, legislation at both of these sessions failed of passage. This question has already been fully discussed by the editor in introductions to previous volumes of the *Archives* (*Arch. Md.* LVI; lxiii-lxvi; LVIII; lxv-lxvi). At the November–December, 1765, session, a bill involving this same Catholic question, “an act for the Security of Purchasers and others claiming by and from Aliens”, was introduced in the Lower House, passed, and sent to the Upper House (pp. 172, 184). There it was amended by deleting the words “Protestant” and “Papist” wherever they occurred in the bill, obviously for the purpose of removing from it all discrimination against Catholics. As no copy of the bill is known to exist we cannot tell with certainty to what extent, or in what way, it discriminated against Catholics, but there can be no question that as drawn up in the Lower House it denied a good title in land to alien