

receipt of those books, and errors and defects in the books themselves;—to enter lands not duly charged;—to demand arrears of rent, and to consider the discovery of such arrears, a part of their duty.

In consideration that the rents were payable half yearly by the tenants, the receivers were required to make a payment of one third directly after their first receipts, and to make before the close of the year a full and complete settlement with the rent roll keeper;—immediately after such settlement, to produce to the receiver general the debt books, examined by the keeper, together with the settled account, signed, and pay the remaining two thirds of the collections, ten per cent being allowed for their services;—they were to have free access to all offices, with liberty to take copies or extracts without fee, unless the attestation of the officer was required, and were to transfer such copies to their successors: in case of disputes with the tenants, they were to apply to the attorney general or his deputies for advice and assistance: they were in all things to observe the instructions of the board of revenue, and to return all books and papers in their charge to that board when called for.⁶⁰

It is clear that the Board of Revenue exercised a most effective control over the collection and book-keeping of the Proprietor's quit rents. Such then, was the final development in the keeping of rent rolls and debt books, for the Board of Revenue continued to operate till the Revolution.

The rent rolls in the present Land Office appear to be a complete, continuous series from 1639 to 1776 and are frequently so listed, but this is not exactly the case. The first book of the series—Liber 0—contains the rent rolls of St. Mary's, Charles, Calvert and Kent counties, four volumes, each with individual paging bound together into one single re-paginated volume. Entries go up to but not beyond 1659 and at the end of the Charles and Kent County rent rolls is found the notation "Extrahitur ex Record" with the signature "Phillip Calvert Sec." Calvert was Secretary between 1656 and 1660 so it seems permissible to assign 1659 as the definite date of Liber 0. This book is unique in the series, having much more detailed entries and a different form from all the other volumes in addition to a definite date of completion, 1659. It is definitely an authentic, contemporary rent roll whereas it is difficult to date any of the other rent rolls until much later. Its uniqueness in this series

⁶⁰ *Arch. Md.*, XXXII, 391 et seq.; Kilty, pp. 258-260.