

entailed much tramping about in wild country and, with some exceptions, brought in but small returns. Other offices were however less exacting. The Deputy Secretary exercised merely a general supervision over the chief provincial record office, as did the Land Office Judges over the Land Office. The (land) Surveyorships General and the customs Surveyorships were admittedly sinecures. All other Customs Offices and Naval Offices and the county clerkships could be, and often were, executed by deputy.

Only the shrievalty and the farmer's office entailed much financial risk. The sheriff, as a collector, normally gave many planters credit, paying their obligations and charging interest on the amount. A farmer paid the entire sum of the county quit-rents, minus his discount, expecting then to collect enough to realize a profit. Both officers gambled on their prospect of getting money from a tight fisted people. Officers paid in tobacco fees always gave credit till the tobacco was ready and so lost a bit each year through insolvencies and the hazards of collection. When there was no fee law (1726-47 and 1770-77) these hazards were of course augmented.

The shrievalty was the only place of profit held for a fixed and limited term. Surveyor General John Langford (1642-48) and Principal Secretary Thomas Beake (1714-1732/3) had appointments for life; but all other officials were appointed during pleasure. However, Customs and Naval Officers and county clerks (after about 1694) enjoyed in practice a life tenure. All higher provincial and proprietary officers, except the Governor, normally held office for years and, if removed from one place, were given another of like value. Moreover the longer an incumbent retained his place the more secure became his tenure, for Baltimore feared resentments above all else.

Least secure was the Governor. Although he might count on his salary and perquisites, his position itself was so ticklish that he could scarcely hope to retain it long. Indeed, between the proprietor and the delegates, he rode the horns of a dilemma. Should he too firmly maintain prerogative, he would arouse the Lower House against himself, throw politics into disorder, and so obtain his own dismissal, as did Thomas Bladen. Should he yield to the delegates, he might violate his instructions and so just as effectually forfeit his job. Governor Ogle, in spite of the bitter