

The first Supply Act, in July of 1740, appointed as Agents Mr. Benjamin Tasker, Colonel Robert King, and Dr. Charles Carroll of Annapolis. These were to receive £ 5000 currency out of the Loan Office and to disburse it in providing victuals, transport, and so forth for those five hundred men to be raised for an expedition against the Spanish Indies. They were then to repay this amount into the Loan Office by receiving, from the Naval Officers, one half of such duties on liquors, Irish servants, and Negroes as had previously been applied toward defraying the public charge and, from the sheriffs, the ordinary license fines, now set aside for this purpose. On all moneys so received and applied they were to have a commission of five percent.

The same persons were by an act of July, 1746, appointed to receive £ 3000 currency out of the Loan Office and to spend it in providing food and transport for the Maryland volunteers, now going to Albany for an attack on Canada. For this service each Agent was paid, under a law of that November, £ 100 currency, about £ 50 sterling, out of the public levy. By this latter act new Agents were appointed with similar duties and the same commission of five percent.

Under a Supply Act of July, 1754, Governor Sharpe himself received and disbursed the funds provided, without remuneration. But under the next and last such law, that of March, 1756, Agents were again appointed. This very complicated enactment names William Murdock, James Dick, and Daniel Wolstenholme and gives them a commission of two and a half percent on all sums received and applied. Its provisions, modified by later acts, finally expired on November 26, 1763. The value of previous Agencies is uncertain, but Sharpe rated this office under the law of 1756 at nearly £ 300 sterling a year.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ Horatio Sharpe to Lord Baltimore, June 30, 1757 (*Archives*, IX, 35).