

period. The accumulating public debt now amounted to over £40,000 current money. Feeling ran so high that mob violence had been threatened at a recent session of the Assembly to force an agreement between the two houses. The principal bone of contention was the payment of the salary of the clerk of the Governor's Council, the Lower House insisting that this should be paid by the Lord Proprietary whose creatures the Upper House and the Council were, the Proprietary that it should be paid out of the public levy. The interested reader is referred for the history of this dispute since 1756 to the introductions of recent volumes of the *Archives* (LX, liv; LVI, lxxviii; LVII, lxxix; LIX, lxxix).

At the brief May, 1766, session, the Journal of Accounts came only casually to the fore in the Assembly proceedings, doubtless since the situation had become so critical, and matters behind the scenes were so moving, that it was felt a compromise between the two houses would be agreed upon when the Assembly should meet again later in the year. On May 24th the Journal was brought into the Lower House by John Goldsborough of the Committee on Accounts, together with a list of debts due to sundry persons on account of the late war, and was promptly adopted and sent to the Upper House. The Upper House immediately returned the Journal with the brief message that while they approved the Book of Accounts with its allowances made to the militia who had served on the frontier in the late war and the money spent for provisions and other necessities for their use, as well as the payment of charges due householders for quartering his Majesty's troops in the Province, the house could not approve the Journal unless there were included in it the back pay and current allowances due to the Clerk of their house (p. 12). The Lower House made no reply to this message, nor is further reference to the journal at the May session to be found.

The November–December, 1766, Assembly, was to see the adoption of a Journal of Accounts brought about by a compromise agreement between the two houses to refer to the Crown for arbitration the disputed question as to the payment of the salary of the clerk of the Upper House. The accumulated public debt had now become too great to be paid by public levy so it was further agreed that the money for this and other purposes be raised by an issue of Bills of Credit, paper money, secured by Bank of England stock owned by the Province and deposited in the hands of trustees in England.

The Journal on November 15th was brought into the Lower House by Thomas Wright of Queen Anne's County for the Committee on Accounts, approved, and sent to the Upper House (p. 167). In a message the Upper House dissented to its adoption, not only because it contained no allowances for the salary of its clerk, but also because no allowance had been made to the Governor for his Seals to the Proclamations notifying the public of the Acts of Parliament repealing the Stamp Act, nor to Jonas Green for printing the Proclamations (p. 102). Upon receipt of this message the Lower House, on a motion that a conference with the Upper House on the Journal be proposed, voted 16 to 16 on the motion, the Speaker casting the deciding vote in the negative (p. 173); but the next day the Lower House reversed itself by send-