

208 ACTS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL (COLONIAL).

1729. § 416 *cont.*]

The Acts are represented to be contrary to the Governor's instructions, as lacking a suspending clause, although they concern the trade and navigation of this kingdom, as laying a duty on European commodities, and as repugnant to the laws of England. The petitioners can foresee no prejudice to the British interest from the repeal of the Acts.

19 Nov. ———. B. of T. report. The Acts are liable to the same objections as those formerly repealed—the oath exacted from the traders and the excessive powers of the Commissioners and of the Farmers of this revenue, “who have authority to search at all times and in all places by day or by night for certain species of Indian goods, without being obliged to take any Peace Officer with them in such searches, though the said Farmers are to gain one moiety by the confiscation.” The Acts should be repealed—six titles are given, from Nov. 1725 to Sept. 1728. The utility of the design projected by them, however, under proper regulations, is fully set out in a former report; the Board has always deemed it of very great importance to prohibit trade with French subjects in America in goods proper for the Indian trade.

29 March. [417.] MARYLAND. *Forward v. Hunt (Bordley's executor)*. II. p. 785. Committee report.

19 Ap. [418.] MASSACHUSETTS BAY. *Governor's salary*. Petition III. p.108. of J. Belcher and F. Willes, agents for the House of Representatives, praying to be heard shortly in support of the Address of that House.

12 Nov. ———. B. of T. representation (enclosing a draft instruction III. p.255. for Lt. Gov. Dummer *re* methods of raising money and *re* fees for ships' passes). The Board had proposed to the agents that the Assembly should pass one general Act, whereby a future provision should be made for their Governor, Council and Assembly. The agents seemed to embrace the same with great readiness, but it appeared that their intention was to make provision for all of these by annual Acts. When asked whether they believed the Assembly would make