

its being opened; and for the Province at large the Poll, after four days from the time of its being opened for the Election, shall be sealed up by the returning officer for each Township, and transmitted to the Provost Marshal by the first opportunity, that seasonable notice may be given to the persons who shall upon examination appear to have been chosen by the greatest number of the said votes. Provided nevertheless that if the votes in the Townships of Annapolis Royal and Cumberland for the first members for the province at large, shall not be returned Eight days before the expiration of the time limited for returning the Precept, the Provost Marshal shall, in such case, proceed to declare who are the persons elected, from the other votes in his hands.

That the Provost Marshal or his Deputy, shall appoint for each Candidate, such one Person as shall be nominated to him by each candidate, to be Inspectors of the returning officer and his Assistants.

That no Person shall be deemed duly Elected who shall not have the vote of a majority of the Electors present.

That the names of all persons voted for together with Names of the Voters, shall at the time of Voting be publicly declared and entered on a Book kept for that purpose.

That in case of the Absence of any of the Members from the Province, for the term of Two months, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander-in-Chief (if he shall judge it necessary) to issue his Precept for the choice of others in their stead.

That the Returning Officer shall cause the foregoing Resolution to be publicly read at the opening of each meeting for the Elections, and to govern the said Meetings agreeable thereto.

CHAS. LAWRENCE.

*Extract from letter of Lords of Trade to Governor Lawrence.*

Whitehall, March 10th, 1757.

We entirely agree in opinion with you that in the present Situation of things and vexed and harrassed as the Province is by the Hostilities of the French and Indians it will be in vain to attempt to induce hardy and industrious people to leave Possessions, which perhaps they may enjoy in peace in other Colonies, to come and settle in a Country where they must be exposed to every distress and Calamity which the most inveterate Enemy living in the Country and knowing every Pass and Corner of it can subject them to, and therefore we do not desire, nor mean to press this measure upon you further than the Circumstances of the Province & of the times will admit of. It does not however appear to us that the same reasons do altogether, tho' they may in part, operate against the calling an Assembly, concerning which We have given our Opinion so fully and We hope so explicitly in a former Letter, that no other difficulties can remain than those which arise from the obstruction and Embarrassment which such a measure may give to His Majesty's Service in time of War and which is a consideration that will however more or less weigh according to the manner in which the measure is carried into Execution, for which reason We thought it proper after pointing out to you as clearly as We were able, the general light in which this matter appeared to Us, to leave it to your Discretion to do it in such manner as you should think most proper, lest by prescribing any peculiar method We should lay you under Difficulties which our Ignorance of particular facts would not permit us to foresee, and in this as well as in every other Direction contained in our Letter upon this subject the principal Point we had in view was to avoid every thing that might give you unnecessary Trouble or Embarrassment in the Execution of a measure which our unprejudiced judgment suggested to us as absolutely necessary for the Peace, Welfare and Credit of the Colony, being one of the fundamental Principles upon which it was first established.

*Governor Lawrence to Lords of Trade.*

9th November, 1757.

As the calling an Assembly is doubtless a point of great importance to the welfare & prosperity of the Province and a measure about which I have been much more embarrassed than any other that has occurred since I have had the honor to conduct the administration of affairs here, I am extremely happy to find by your Lordships letter of the 10th of March last that your Lordships are