

an average about ten times a month instead of on an average of about five times a week as formerly. The secretary of State for the Southern Department now took over the direction of colonial affairs instead of the Board of Trade which was degraded to the position of a mere advisory body with no executive powers. But the ignorance and incapacity of Newcastle as the executive head of colonial affairs was colossal. "Annapolis, Annapolis! Oh yes! Annapolis must be defended," he is reported to have said. "To be sure, Annapolis should be defended. Where is Annapolis?"⁵⁸ Under these conditions it was quite natural that colonial affairs were allowed to drift as they would and that between 1714 and 1748 only four Massachusetts acts in all were disallowed.

From 1748 down to 1766 the powers and efficiency of the Board of Trade were revived under the able presidency of men like Halifax, Townshend and Shelburne. One of the most fatal errors ever made in British Colonial Administration was that in 1757 the Board of Trade and Plantations was not created as a separate department with Halifax as secretary of State for the colonies. Pitt, I believe, was responsible for that mistake. In the first place he was unwilling to part with any of his powers by creating a third Secretary of State.⁵⁹ He also failed to realize that the problems of colonial administration and government was of just as much importance in safeguarding English interests in America as the problem of wresting Canada from the French. He therefore threw a sop to Halifax's legitimate ambition to be a third Secretary of State by admitting him as a member to his cabinet. The position of the president of the Board of Trade as a Cabinet Minister greatly increased the prestige and efficiency of the Board which was also maintained during the short terms of Townshend and Shelburne. During this period of increased executive power we find a corresponding tightening up of control over colonial affairs which

⁵⁸H. Walpole. *Memoirs of the last ten years of George II.* Quoted in Egerton, *British Colonial Policy.*

⁵⁹"Lord Halifax had often and lately been promised to be erected into a Secretary of State for the West Indies. Mr. Pitt says: No, I will not part with so much power." Fitzmaurice's *Life of Shelburne.* Letter of June 20, 1757.