

passable. Justices were also to enumerate in their records each year the public roads, to make diligent inquiry as to whether the overseers discharged their several duties and to make due presentment and prosecute for failure properly to discharge such duties, and to give in charge to the overseers from time to time the rules and methods prescribed for marking certain roads leading to ferries, courthouses, churches, etc. In May 1697 the justices of the several counties were cautioned by order of the Council to send in to the Governor and Council an account of the public roads ascertained in each county, pursuant to the directions of an act of Assembly.<sup>2</sup>

The justices were to appoint from time to time as required some able or discreet resident conveniently located to take care of and preserve existing standard weights and measures or to procure the necessary weights and measures. They were also to nominate and appoint each year two honest and substantial men as press-masters in each hundred in the county. They were also authorized to issue certificates to disabled soldiers or to widows and children of soldiers killed in service, who were applicants for pensions or allowances, that such persons were objects of charity and deserving of such pensions or allowances to be issued out of the public levy of the province.<sup>3</sup>

The commissioners were authorized to grant licenses for the keeping of ordinaries to such persons for such times and in such places as to them seemed fitting. They were also in January and August of each year to summon all the ordinary keepers in their county and thereupon set and assess the rates and prices of all liquors for which rates were not fixed by statute. In case of an ordinary keeper misbehaving or "keeping evil rule in his house", the justices upon complaint were authorized to suppress the ordinary and call in the license.<sup>4</sup>

Any person receiving into his custody a servant transported into the province without indenture was obliged, within six months (unless only five years service was claimed), to bring such servant before the county court in which he lived to have his age judged and determined and entered of record. If such servant was adjudged above twenty-two years of age, he was obliged to serve five years. If between eighteen and twenty-two, six years; if between fifteen and eighteen, seven years; if under fifteen years, then to serve until he attained twenty-two years.<sup>5</sup> Many instances of such adjudgment appear in the *Liber*.

The justices of the county courts were also authorized to make allowances in the county levy of 200 pounds of tobacco for each wolf's head brought in to any justice (such allowances appear in the *Liber*) and for the purchase of matchcoats to be delivered to Indians as wolf bounties.<sup>6</sup> The commissioners were given power, upon examination of the public charges of the county and of the allowances made by them of such charges, to levy and raise tobacco for payment of the allowed county charges, and the sheriff's salary for collection thereof, by an equal assessment upon the goods and chattels of the freemen and inhabitants of the county. These accounts were required to be signed by the commissioners and kept in a book by the clerk of the court. Complaints that charges were not allowable or of overcharges were to be examined in the Provincial Court. Three such accounts are entered in the *Liber*.<sup>7</sup>

2. 13 *id.* 486; 38 *id.* 95; 22 *id.* 475; 23 *id.* 105.

3. 13 *id.* 491, 554; 22 *id.* 562.

4. 38 *id.* 44; 22 *id.* 518.

5. 13 *id.* 451; 22 *id.* 546.

6. 13 *id.* 520; 22 *id.* 479.

7. 13 *id.* 470; 38 *id.* 112; 22 *id.* 474; *infra* 52-53, 278-80, 614-15.