Results of the First General Assembly

Case 1
Result: Captain Martin’s burgesses were told that he had to appear before the Assembly and remove the clause before they could be seated. Captain Martin came to Jamestown and refused to give up his special privileges, and his burgesses were sent home. The Assembly wrote to the Company asking that all patents be the same so that everyone in Virginia had to follow the same laws.

Case 2
Result: It was decided that from then on Captain Martin, in spite of not having to follow the laws of the colony, would inform the Governor before sending out trading parties and pledge that his people would not forcibly take what they wanted from the Indians.

Case 3:
Result: Tobacco was inspected to make sure it was a good product. Any tobacco that did not qualify as first or second quality was burned immediately.

Case 4:
Result: The colonists should be careful to know the temperament of the Indians (whether they are peaceful) and, with the Governor’s permission, only 5 or 6 at a time could be allowed to live and work in the settlements. They must be watched closely at night, and if possible, a house should be built for them to live in together.

Case 5:
Result: Laws were passed to prohibit selling or trading large metal tools, English dogs and guns to the Indians. The laws also prohibited men from going more than 20 miles from their home or being away for more than 7 days. Going to an Indian town required getting permission from the Governor first or other person in charge.

Case 6:
Result: The General Assembly was not willing to put Spelman to death, the usual punishment for traitors, because they only had one man’s word against his. They did punish him by stripping him of his rank of Captain and ordering him to work seven years as an interpreter for the Governor.