

immediately to offer the following property for sale, by publishing the same in the Maryland Gazette and Baltimore Journal for four successive weeks, to wit: The reserves in Saint Mary's, Charles, Baltimore and Harford counties, and on Monococy manor, and Gunpowder, North-East and Elk manors, and sundry other lands, on certain terms and conditions for payment therein mentioned: And whereas it was declared to be the intention of the general assembly, that the tenants on manors and settlers on reserves should have the preference of purchasing such parts of any manor or reserve lands as they were settled on or occupy, on paying such reasonable and moderate valuation therefor as the said commissioners, or persons nominated by them, should on oath determine: And whereas it appears by the returns of the valuations made by the persons nominated by the commissioners in virtue of said act, that in a variety of instances manifest injustice has been attempted to be done to the state, and the valuations of said lands so extremely low, and bear so small a proportion to their real value, that the commissioners aforesaid refused to give titlings to the register of the land-office to issue warrants to survey such lands; therefore,

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II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the intendant of the revenue, together with the commissioners for the preservation and sale of confiscated British property, be authorized and required to make diligent inquiry into all and every of the same valuations so made and returned in virtue of the act aforesaid, and revise the same; and in all cases where the intendant and the commissioners, or any two of them, shall find, upon examination, that any of the valuations have been made contrary to the spirit and intention of the act aforesaid, the said intendant and commissioners, or any two of them in such case, shall affix a reasonable and moderate price to such land, and the tenants and settlers shall have the preference thereof, at the price so affixed, upon the terms mentioned in the act aforesaid; and upon neglect or refusal of the tenants to purchase, then they shall order and direct such property, so undervalued, to be exposed to public sale, to the highest bidder, notice being first given six weeks in the Baltimore and Annapolis news-papers, and by advertisements set up in the most frequented places of the neighbourhood where such reserved or other lands may be, any thing in the same former act or in any other act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Intendant, &c. to inquire, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the sale of the said property shall be on the following terms: That on the day of sale, (or within five days thereafter, if so agreed by the commissioners,) the purchaser shall give bond, in current money, with good security, in double the purchase money, conditioned for payment to the state of one third in twelve months, one third in two years, and the residue in three years, from the day of sale, with interest of six per cent. and if any purchaser shall neglect to give bond within the time limited, he shall forfeit five per cent. on the purchase money, to be recovered as directed by the supplement to the act to raise recruits, passed April session, seventeen hundred and eighty-two, and if he shall give bond, and neglect to make payment at the respective times appointed, that he be compelled thereto in the manner directed by the said act; and if bond shall not be given, the commissioners may elect to declare the sale void or good, and if the latter, they may proceed in the same manner to recover the purchase money as in the said act is allowed and directed.

Terms of sale, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That upon any purchase made of any of the aforesaid lands, the commissioners aforesaid shall give a titling to the register of the land-office for the shore on which the land lies, who shall thereupon issue a warrant to survey such land for the purchaser, who shall, upon a certificate returned to the land-office of the western shore, and after the same shall be examined and passed, be entitled to a patent therefor, upon the same terms and under such regulations as in the case of a survey to affect vacant land in every respect, except that such purchaser shall not be obliged to pay any other composition money.

Commissioners to give titling, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That in all sales of the said lands there shall be a reservation of one fifth part of all mines of gold or silver found thereon to this state, which reservation shall be expressed in the deeds for the said lands.

Reservation to be made, &c.

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A Supplement to the act (a) to authorise the commissioners for the preservation and sale of confiscated British property to convey certain lands in Wiccomico manor to several of the tenants thereof. Lib. TBH. No. A. fol. 306.

Passed 1st of June, 1783.

(a) April, 1782, ch. 18.