

February session, 1777, have been noticed in the preceding chapter. The act of April session, 1782, Chap. 38, sec. 4, after reciting that many certificates remained in the hands of the late examiner, directed that he should deliver on or before the first day of July then ensuing, all such certificates, whether passed or not, to the register of the land office for the Western Shore, who was to receive the fees due on the certificates examined and passed by the said examiner, and pay the same over to him or his order; and the register was to deliver any erroneous certificate to the owner, on his giving his receipt therefor, and paying the fees due for examining thereof, which were also to be paid over to the said examiner or his order, and the owner might compel payment of such fees from the surveyor who returned such erroneous certificate, or if dead, from his executors or administrators.

In regard to composition remaining, or to become, due on surveys made, or warrants issued, under the former government, the 1st section of the same act provided that surveys made before the first day of March, 1777, or made since under warrants issued before that time, might be compounded on by the first of November, 1782, after which day, warrants might issue to affect the land remaining unpaid for; provided that if the certificate of any such survey was lost, mislaid, or erroneous, or where the owner was an infant, or caveat remained in force against issuing grant, or default in payment had not been owing to the neglect of the owner, warrants should not issue to affect such surveys without the express licence of the chancellor, and with a further proviso that the owner of a certificate not compounded on within the time limited as aforesaid, might, at any time before application for a warrant to affect the land, obtain a grant, on paying for surplus or vacant land 7s. 6d. per acre, or for escheat lands two thirds of the actual value, and for improvements, if any, the full worth thereof as in other cases.

By the 2d section of the same act it was directed that all certificates returned, or to be returned, in virtue of warrants or orders granted before the first of March, 1777, should lie in the office three months from the first of July then ensuing, before they could be entitled to patent.

By the 4th section of the act of November session, 1781, ch. 20, it had been provided that the owners of certificates already made or returned should pay the sum of one shilling and eight pence current money per acre, meaning, it is presumed, so far as the land included in such certificates had not been paid for on obtaining the warrants, as, in case of vacancy comprehended in resurveys, or the quantities of original warrants being exceeded. This was no more than to say that the former rate of composition should be paid on land surveyed