

“ for special warrants to take up cultivated or improved vacant land,” on the payment of three shillings and six pence current money per acre ; the parties returning certificates under such warrants, to pay four shillings more per acre within one year from the dates of the warrants, so that the state shall receive the sum of seven shillings and six pence for every acre of vacant land granted under warrants so to be issued. After thus fixing the price of vacant land, which was afterwards, by the act of 1778, ch. 44, reduced to three shillings and nine pence per acre, payable in the same proportions, to wit : one shilling and nine pence on taking the warrant, and two shillings more within a twelve month : the section proceeds to direct that no payment shall be delayed or denied on account of the second payment not being made, but that the register in making out a patent under such circumstances shall endorse the sum due or to become due thereon, and deliver an account thereof, accompanied by the date of the warrant, to the treasurer of the western shore, to be entered on a book to be kept for that purpose ; and, that on failure of regular payment, the treasurer shall lodge an account against the patentee with the clerk of the general court, or the county court where the party resides, who shall issue *fiere facias* against the lands and tenements, goods and chattels, of such patentee, to raise the money due on such patent ; the land so granted to be liable therefor, in whosever hands it may be. On this provision, which if not expressly repealed, does not accord with the spirit of subsequent regulations, some remarks will hereafter be made.

This section further provides, that the treasurer for the western shore shall receive for improvements on cultivated lands their actual value, and for escheat land two thirds of its real value, in current money : It provides also that common or special warrants may issue from the land office (on the western shore) for deficiency in any grant, and likewise in the case of caution money paid and the certificate vacated. This has already been noticed as having reference to the proprietary's grants, but it is a regulation operating also on those of the state government.

The 6th section directs that the time for compounding on all vacant land shall be within one year from the date of the warrant, and that the purchase money on all escheats shall be paid within the same time, after which, warrants may issue to other persons who shall apply for the same ; which regulations are still in force. The same section gives power to the governor and council, “ from time to time, to make and establish such rules and orders for the direction of the treasurers in issuing their titlings or orders for warrants, and for the conduct of the examiner-general and the registers, in their