

“respective offices, and for the behavior of surveyors, as they shall think proper,” which rules and orders are to be observed by the said officers respectively: It directs further that “if any dispute shall arise concerning the validity of surveys or the grant of lands,” the same shall be heard and determined by the chancellor as to all former warrants and surveys agreeably to the *former rules* of the land office, and as to future warrants and surveys according to such rules and orders as shall be established by the governor and the council.

By the 7th section the governor and council are authorised to appoint an examiner general, who is to reside at Annapolis, and is to “examine, and pass or reject certificates, agreeably to the former or future rules and directions as the case may be, “and is to take an oath to execute his office diligently and faithfully, without favour, affection, partiality or prejudice.

The 8th section directs that a preference shall be given to those who shall have made the first application for warrants (in proper hours for the transaction of business) before the first day of December, 1781, and to those who shall in like manner make the first application after the first day of February 1782. This is so far worthy of notice in speaking of general regulations, as that it expresses the sense of the legislature that business is not to be transacted in the land office at unusual hours:—In other respects the provision was temporary, being designed in all probability to defeat those applications that had been or might be made while this important law was in discussion.

The next provision of a general nature is contained in the 9th section, which, after requiring that the value in current money of all escheat lands, and improvements thereon, and the real value in current money of all improvements on cultivated land, shall be returned and certified by the surveyor upon oath, at the time of returning his certificate of survey, directs that the treasurer of the western shore shall finally ascertain the value of such land and improvements, and shall receive the money therefor from the party.

The 12th section, after reciting that land originally included by the courses and distances expressed in the certificates of lands formerly granted, but since excluded by the variation of the compass, ought not to be taken from the person claiming under such survey and grant, and that attempts may be made to take up such land as vacancy, contrary to justice—directs that no grant shall issue, unless to the person holding under the grant originally including the land as aforesaid, upon any warrant to affect land which the Chancellor may on caveat adjudge to have been included by the courses of such original grant, and since excluded by the variation of the