

the time prescribed for its lying there, found not in a situation to be patented, by means, in the case of a resurvey, of tracts being included that were not mentioned in the warrant, or of its comprehending lands not contiguous to each other, besides other defects not discoverable by the examiner, as want of title to the originals, &c. which will hereafter be noticed. If the examiner passes a certificate, his approbation is of course endorsed thereon. If he rejects it, he endorses that it is "disallowed," stating the reason; and when it is presented to him again after being corrected, which may be done without any order, for a certificate never comes under the cognizance of the chancellor until it is in the office, he examines it anew, in some cases disallowing it a second time, and finally passes it when the defects or errors are removed. All that remains to be said here concerning the duties of the examiner general is that he makes an annual return on oath to the general assembly of the amount of his fees for the preceding year; a regulation for his benefit, as they always fall short of what the legislature has by successive resolutions determined to be a reasonable compensation for his services, which sum has therefore for several years been completed by drafts on the treasury for the deficiency. These remarks in like manner with those on the duties of the treasurer, apply generally to the examiner of either shore; but, the appointment of an examiner, and judge, for the eastern shore, with their peculiar duties, will be the subject of a separate article.

As to the duties of the registers of the land office, to state them in every particular would be to describe the practice of the office more at large than is designed in the present chapter; but, although the method I have adopted must occasion numerous repetitions, I have thought that a cursory view of the personal duties of the several officers concerned in the land establishment would throw, by anticipation, a useful light on the more regular account which I propose to give of the matters themselves transacted and performed in the land office. I shall therefore make a slight enumeration of the duties of the register, meaning, in a general way, the register of either shore, although it is to be borne in mind that, until the year 1795, the duty of the eastern shore register was confined to the issuing of warrants, and such matters as were incident thereto, all certificates being returned to, and patents issued from, the office of the western shore: it is also to be recollected that there are some duties peculiar to the register of the eastern shore, which will be noticed when we speak of the arrangement of 1795, just mentioned.

The register of the land office for the western shore has the care and custody of the records and papers arising under