

Eastern Shore, with their peculiar duties, as well as those of the treasurer and the register on that shore. The constitution, as has been seen, made no further provision for the particular convenience of that part of the state than that there should be a land office there, under the care of a register, who should have possession of the short extracts of certificates and grants therein mentioned, which extracts, whatever may have been the intent of this provision, have never been prepared. The constitution had also, without any reference to the land office, assigned a treasurer to the Eastern Shore :—here was an establishment sufficient for the issuing of warrants, but nothing else, and accordingly those powers, in the act of 1781 &c. which were common to the registers of both shores related only to that duty. The certificates of survey were all returned to the office of the Western Shore, where there was an examiner to ascertain their correctness, and a judge to direct the issuing of patents upon them ; for, independent of contested cases, whenever the rules of descent might have to be considered a law character was necessary for the last mentioned purpose. In the year 1795 the general assembly conceiving that the footing on which the land office stood was not such as to afford to the inhabitants of the Eastern Shore all the conveniences of which the establishment was capable, and which were designed by the constitution, passed an act “ respecting certificates of surveys made on the Eastern Shore,” by which it was ordained that all certificates of surveys made on the Eastern Shore, by virtue of warrants of any kind issuing out of the land office of the said Shore after the first day of March succeeding the passage of the act, should be returned to the register of the land office for that shore, to be by him delivered to an examiner to be appointed by direction of the same act, who, if a certificate was “ defective or imperfect,” was to return the same forthwith to the register, by him to be sent back to the surveyor for correction ; but, if it passed examination, was to deliver it to the said register to be recorded (immediately after patent should be issued thereon and not before) in a good and sufficient book, to be kept by him for that purpose. In a word, all certificates were thenceforward to be returned to the office from whence the warrants issued. The provision respecting the mode of return was altered in relation to both shores by the act of the same session, ch. 88, which directs that no certificate shall be received in the land office (meaning the office of either shore) unless the same be passed by the examiner general, which implies that they are to be returned in the first instance to that officer.

The act of 1795, ch. 61, now under consideration directed that the governor and council shall appoint an examiner for