

SEC. 52. The General Assembly shall appropriate no money out of the Treasury for payment of any private claim against the State exceeding three hundred dollars, unless said claim shall have been first presented to the Comptroller of the Treasury, together with the proofs upon which the same is founded, and reported upon by him.

Private
claims.

SEC. 53. No person shall be incompetent, as a witness, on account of race or color, unless hereafter so declared by Act of the General Assembly.

Witnesses.

SEC. 54. No county of this State shall contract any debt, or obligation, in the construction of any railroad, canal, or other work of internal improvement, nor give, or loan its credit to or in aid of any association, or corporation, unless authorized by an Act of the General Assembly, which shall be published for two months before the next election for members of the House of Delegates in the newspapers published in such county, and shall also be approved by a majority of all the members elected to each House of the General Assembly, at its next session after said election.

Counties
forbidden
to contract
debts with-
out au-
thority.

Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Company vs. Pumphrey, 74 Md., 86. Baltimore & Eastern Shore R. Co. vs. Spring, 80 Md., 510.

SEC. 55. The General Assembly shall pass no law suspending the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*.

Habeas cor-
pus.

SEC. 56. The General Assembly shall have power to pass all such laws as may be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the powers vested by this Constitution, in any department or office of the Government, and the duties imposed upon them thereby.

Powers of As-
sembly.

SEC. 57. The legal rate of interest shall be *six per cent per annum*, unless otherwise provided by the General Assembly.

Interest.

Bandel vs. Isaac, 13 Md., 202. Birmingham vs. Md. Land and Perm. Homestead Association of Balto. Co., 45 Md., 541. Citizens' Land Co. vs. Uhler, 48 Md., 455.

SEC. 58. The Legislature, at its first session after the ratification of this Constitution, shall provide by law for State and municipal taxation upon the revenues accruing from business done in the State by all foreign corporations.

Foreign cor-
porations.

SEC. 59. The office of "State Pension Commissioner" is hereby abolished; and the Legislature shall pass no law creating such office, or establishing any general pension system within this State.

Pension
system
abolished.