

empt from the imposition of any tax or burthen by the States assenting to this law.

SECTION 17; *And be it enacted*, That the said President and Directors shall annually, or semi-annually, declare and make such dividend as they may deem proper, of the net profits arising from their resources of the said company, after deducting the necessary current and probable contingent expenses; and that they shall divide the same amongst the proprietors of the stock of said company, in proper proportions to their respective shares.

SECTION 18. *And be it enacted*, That if any person or persons shall wilfully by any means whatsoever, injure, impair, or destroy any part of any railroad constructed by said company under this act, or any of their necessary works, buildings, carriages, vehicles or machines of said company, such persons so offending, shall each of them, for every such offence, forfeit and pay to the said company, the sum of five hundred dollars, which may be recovered in the name of said company, by an action of debt in the county court of the county wherein the offence shall be committed, and shall also be subject to indictment in said court; and upon conviction of such offence, shall be punished by fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

Sec. 19. *And be it enacted*, That as soon as this act shall have been passed by the Legislature of Maryland, books may be opened, subscriptions received, and the said company organized, and that when organized, the said company and the President and Directors of the same, shall have all the powers, rights and privileges granted by this act, and shall be subject to all its regulations in constructing or repairing any of the said railroads, or other necessary works or buildings, which may or can be constructed within the limits of the State of Maryland, and in transporting persons, goods, merchandise or property of any description, along any of said roads, and that the provisions of this act shall be wholly in force, as to all the property of the company, which may be situated or may be within the State of Maryland, and which said company is permitted to hold under this act.

Sec. 20. *And be it enacted*, That if said road shall not be commenced in six years from the passage of this act, and shall not be finished in twelve years from the time of commencement thereof, then this act shall be null and void.

Sec. 21. *And be it enacted*, That full right and privilege is hereby reserved to the citizens of this State, or any company hereafter to be incorporated under the authority of this State, to connect with the road hereby provided for, or other railroad leading from the main route to any part or parts of this State; *provided*, that in forming such connection no injury shall be done to the works of the company hereby incorporated.