In pursuing his investigations, the Commissioner has power to summons witnesses and to examine them on their oath when necessary. The Commissioner has visitorial powers over every institution to which prisoners, whether adult or minors, are committed that receive aid from the State, city or private sources.

COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE—Annapolis.

(All Terms Expire 1924.)

Name.   Postoffice.

Commissioner:

  James S. Shepherd..Cambridge

Chief Clerk:

  Arthur Trader ....Annapolis

Assistant Clerks:

  Richard Duvall ....St. Margarets

  Edward Phelps ....Annapolis

Index Clerks:

  Dr. F. F. Hicks..Cambridge

  John P. Stafford..Easton

  Frank S. Revell..Glenburnie

Stenographer:

  Malcom W. Warring..Annapolis

The Commissioner of the Land Office is appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, to hold office during the term of the Governor. The Commissioner appoints all officers in his office. (Constitution, Art. 7, Sec. 4.)

The Land Office is the State Record Office, pertaining to boundaries of land, and is the means by which discovered vacant land is passed by the State to the individual, and covers the period from the earliest to the present date. The Commissioner sits as a judge in contested disputes over vacant land, and there is a right of appeal direct to the Court of Appeals over his decision.

The duties of the Land Office, in regard to its clerical force, is to keep the indexing, answer the various questions that are daily brought to it by the mail, wait on the visiting public, and record the patents and certificates that are returned on the different kinds of warrants executed by the county surveyors throughout the State.

Questions relating to military service during the War of the American Revolution.

Questions relating to wills, administration proceedings, inventories, accounts and balances from the earliest to 1777.

Questions relating to confiscated British property.

Questions relating to Provincial Court, General Court, Court of Chancery, debt books, rent rolls, insolvent proceedings, and extract of deeds from the whole State.