

detected in killing or injuring sheep, and the same shall be proved by oath or affirmation, before a justice of the peace, that upon complaint to the owner or owners of said dog or dogs, he shall proceed forthwith to kill said dog, and on refusal to do so, he shall be liable to pay to the owner of said sheep, double the value of the same, to be recovered before any justice of the peace of the state of Maryland, with costs, in the manner now prescribed for the recovery of small debts out of court.

Sheep exempt from taxation.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That all sheep belonging to the citizens of this state, be free from taxation for the term of five years from and after the passage of this act.

CHAPTER 201.

AN ACT relative to vacant State Lands in Washington County.

Vacant lands may be taken up.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That all vacant lands in Washington county, may hereafter be taken up by common or special warrant, or warrant of resurvey in the usual manner, at twenty-five cents per acre, one-half to be paid at the time of obtaining the warrant, and the other half on the return of the certificate: *Provided*, that all warrants already issued shall be compounded on, agreeably to the law under which they were respectively obtained.

Acts inconsistent herewith repealed.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That all laws heretofore passed on this subject, which are contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this act, be, and the same are hereby repealed.

CHAPTER 208.

* 1820, ch. 191.

A SUPPLEMENT to the ACT,* entitled, an Act to amend and reduce into one system the laws to direct Descents.

Authority to fill vacancies of commissioners.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That in case of the death, inability, or removal out of the state, of the commissioners, or a majority of such commissioners appointed under and by virtue of the act to which this is a supplement, without having executed the duties prescribed by such commissioners, it shall be the duty of the court issuing the commission, on the application of any person interested therein, and such court is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint commissioners to fill up the vacancies occurring, and to empower the persons appointed in connection with the remaining commissioner or commissioners theretofore appointed, to execute the duties prescribed by the commission, as fully in every respect as if such person had been originally named in said commission.

Preamble.

And whereas, doubts have arisen as to the power of the county courts to receive the written election or refusal made out of court of such person or persons as may be entitled to elect or