

in virtue of his office.(d) But it not unfrequently happens, that the king's title to lands, which has thus accrued to him by confiscation, forfeiture or escheat, remains wholly unknown to the public officers whose duty it is to have it distinctly and specially replaced in his hands by an inquest of office; therefore, in such cases, where an individual by petition to the king *first* makes known the fact, that there is such an interest; and prays some reward upon the ground of discovery, if it can be made out; the proper proceedings are thereupon instituted; and if the escheat be established, the petitioner is usually rewarded with a lease of the property for his discovery.(e)

Considering the numerous and various matters of public concern by which the attention of the king is presumed to be unceasingly engaged; in order to prevent mistake, imposition and fraud, it is provided, that all his grants must pass through certain preliminary grades and forms. The proposed grant is by a warrant from the crown first put into the form of a bill by the attorney and solicitor general, which is then to be sealed with the privy signet by the principal secretary of state, and approved and signed by the king; it is then carried to the keeper of the privy seal, who makes out a writ thereupon to the chancery, which, if no objection be apparent, or then interposed, is a warrant to affix the great seal to the patent. Upon which it is enrolled, within the time limited by law, in the *Petty Bag* or the enrollment office, which appears to have originally constituted a part of the court itself, and which is, for all such purposes, a legal court of record.(f) But if before the great seal has been put to the patent the proposed grantee dies, the application so totally fails, that the whole proceeding must be revived, or renewed by the heir or person who succeeds to the pretensions of the applicant.(g) The object of all these several forms is, that the proposed grant may be narrowly inspected by all those officers whose duty it is to inform the king if there be any thing contained in it which is improper or unlawful to be granted; indeed, it is said to be the duty of all the king's subjects to see, that he is fully informed as to such matters.(h)

---

(d) *Raysing's Case*, Dyer, 208; *Page's Case*, 5 Co. 52; *Doe Lessee of Hayne v. Redfern*, 12 East, 96; F. N. B. 566, 569; 4 Inst. 225; *Gilb. Exch.* 103, 109; 2 Blac. Com. 244; 3 Blac. Com. 258; *Shelf. Lun. & Idiots*, 75.—(e) *Moggridge v Thackwell*, 7 Ves. 71.—(f) *Vernon v. Benson*, 9 Mod. 48; *Ex parte Koops*, 6 Ves. 599; *Ex parte Beck*, 1 Bro. C. C. 578; *Attorney General v. Stewart*, 2 Meriv. 153; 1 Mad. Chan. 4.—(g) 1 Boz. His. Mary. 258.—(h) *Com. Dig. tit. Patent C. 5 & D*; *Bac. Abr. tit. Prerogative F.*; 2 Inst. 555; *Gilb. For. Rom.* 12; *The Case of Alton Woods*, 1 Co. 52.