

law or by order of the commission, conformably with the law, is unlawful and prohibited.

The public service commission herein created and established shall have the general supervision of all common carriers, railroads, street railroads, railroad corporations and street railroad corporations, transporting passengers, freight or property from one point to another within the State of Maryland, and shall have power to and shall examine the same or cause the same to be examined and keep informed as to their general condition, their capitalization, their franchises and the manner in which their lines, owned, leased, controlled or operated and managed, are conducted or operated within this State both with respect to the adequacy, security and accommodation afforded by their service, and also with respect to their compliance with all provisions of law and orders of the commission.

The commissioner shall have power and authority to administer oaths in all parts of the State to witnesses summoned to testify in any inquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding, and also to administer oaths in all parts of the State whenever the exercise of such power is incidentally necessary or proper to enable the commission or a commissioner to perform a duty or to exercise a power committed to it by this sub-title. The commission and each commissioner shall have power to examine all books, contracts, records, documents and papers of any corporation, company, association, person or partnership subject to its supervision, in so far as they relate to the matters over which said commission has jurisdiction and control, and by subpoena *duces tecum* to compel production thereof. In lieu of requiring production of originals by subpoena *duces tecum*, the commission, or any commissioner, may require sworn copies of any such books, records, contracts, documents and papers, or parts thereof, to be filed with it.

1910, ch. 180, sec. 14 (p. 355).

426. A railroad corporation, upon the application of any shipper tendering traffic for transportation, shall construct, maintain and operate upon reasonable terms a switch connection or connections with a lateral line of railroad or private side-track owned, operated or controlled by such shipper, and shall, upon the application of any shipper, provide upon its own property a side-track and switch connection with its line of railroad, whenever such side-track and switch connection is reasonably practicable, can be put in with safety and the business therefor is sufficient to justify the same.

If any railroad corporation shall fail to install or operate any such switch connection with a lateral line or railroad, or any such side-track and switch connection as aforesaid, after written application therefor has been made to it, any corporation or person interested may present the facts to the commission by written petition, and the commission shall investigate the matter stated in such petition, and give such hearings therein as it may deem necessary or proper. If the com-