

Sec. 33. The General Assembly shall not pass local or special laws in any of the following enumerated cases, viz: For extending the time for the collection of taxes, granting divorces, changing the name of any person, providing for the sale of real estate belonging to minors or other persons laboring under legal disabilities, by executors, administrators, guardians or trustees, giving effect to informal or invalid deeds or wills, refunding money paid into the State Treasury, or releasing persons from their debts or obligations to the State, unless recommended by the Governor or officers of the Treasury Department. And the General Assembly shall pass no special law for any case for which provision has been made by an existing general law. The General Assembly, at its first session after the adoption of this Constitution, shall pass general laws providing for the cases enumerated in this section which are not already adequately provided for, and for all other cases where a General Law can be made applicable.

Special Laws—Cases Covered by General Law.

Acts Condemned.

Act 1900, ch. 579, assessing shares of stock in corporations in Allegany county to these corporations and exempting the share-holders from taxation thereon. The term "general" contrasted with "special" and "local." While the act of 1900 professed to apply only to Allegany county, it operated in every county in the state in which any stockholder of an Allegany county corporation resided. *Baltimore v. Allegany County*, 99 Md. 12.

Act 1908, ch. 398, directing a railroad company to maintain safety gates and flagmen at two designated crossings, since art. 23, sec. 240, of the Code contains general provisions prescribing the condition under which railroad companies may be required to protect crossings by flagmen, gates, etc. A special law is one that relates to particular persons or things of a class as distinguished from a general law which applies to all persons or things of a class. Cases reviewed. *Prince George's County v. B. & O. R. R. Co.*, 113 Md. 179.

In view of the P. S. C. law, so much of sec. 87 of the charter of Crisfield as attempts to invest it with the power to regulate telephone rates. Intent of the legislature in adopting the P. S. C. law. Distinction between special and public local acts. *Crisfield v. C. & P. Tel. Co.*, 131 Md. 444.

Act 1910, ch. 341, regulating rates of a water company. *Westminster v. Consolidated Public Utilities Co.*, 132 Md. 374.

Act 1904, ch. 263, exempting a particular wharf owned by a church from municipal taxation—see art. 81, sec. 4. Object of this section. *Baltimore v. Starr Church*, 106 Md. 280.

Act 1874, ch. 453, a local option law covering certain districts of certain counties. *Fell v. State*, 42 Md. 116 (dissenting opinion).

Acts upheld.

Act 1894, ch. 620, providing for the erection of a public school building in Annapolis, for the issue of bonds and for the apportionment of the cost of said building between the county and city; while the existing general law provided that the school commissioners of Anne Arundel county should have control and supervision of the schools in said county with power to build, etc., houses, it did not authorize the borrowing of money for such purposes nor for an apportionment of the cost of the building. *Revell v. Annapolis*, 81 Md. 13.

Sec. 19 of act 1870, ch. 260, incorporating the town of Laurel provided that certain labor or money levied or taxed upon the owners of property or residents within said town should be turned over to the commissioners of Laurel and be spent by them for the improvement of roads, etc.; the law was a local and not a special one. *Prince George's County v. Commissioners of Laurel*, 51 Md. 460.

Act of 1868, ch. 411, relating to the public roads of Baltimore county; a local and not a special law. *State v. Baltimore County*, 29 Md. 519.

Act 1906, ch. 566, modifying the park tax payable by the United Railways Company of Baltimore upon certain gross receipts, authorizing the board of estimates to grant a certain franchise to said company in perpetuity, and modifying the powers of the board of estimates, held not to violate this section or art. 15 of the Declara-