

by metes and bounds, and such other description of the land for which the patent is sought, so that the land may be known, and also particularly describing the claim of the applicant for such patent, and containing a notification of the day and hour on which the applicant will apply to the commissioner to issue such patent, which day shall be at least sixty days from the day of filing the application, and warning all parties interested to appear before said commissioner on the day and hour therein designated to show cause, if any they have, why such patent should not be issued.

Id s 12  
1852, c 361, s 1.  
If no objection  
made patent to  
issue

If objection,  
objections to be  
filed in writing

Id s 13  
1852, c 361, s 1.

Within what  
time to decide.

Id s 14  
1781, c 20, s 6,  
1789, c 35, s 4  
To determine  
disputes about  
surveys and  
patents

33 Md 95, 38  
Md 81, 47 Md.  
111.

Id s 15  
Const art 4, s 19  
1846, c 92  
Who to act  
when commis-  
sioner disqual-  
ified.

Id s 16  
1781, c 20, ss  
4-8  
Who may take  
up vacant land  
or escheat land.  
32 Md 355

1861, c 3, s 1.  
Warrants for  
vacant or  
escheat lands.

**13.** If no person appears to contest the said application on the days appointed, a patent shall issue to the applicant, but if opposition be made to the issue of such patent, the party or parties making such opposition shall, by a day to be designated by the commissioner of the Land Office, not exceeding thirty days, file in the Land Office their objections in writing to the issue of said patent.

**14.** The said commissioner shall fix some day, not less than ten nor more than twenty days after the objections are filed, to hear such application, and shall then hear the respective parties if they appear before him, and if not, he shall proceed to determine *ex parte* the rights of the parties claiming to be interested, and shall, within thirty days after such hearing, decide in favor of or reject the application as to him shall seem right and proper, filing his reasons therefor in writing.

**15.** The said commissioner shall have full power and authority to hear and determine all disputes which may arise concerning the validity of surveys made under warrants or orders issued by him; and also all disputes concerning the issuing of patents, and in all disputes that come before him, he shall have full power to decree thereon according to equity and good conscience, and the principles established in courts of equity.

**16.** In any matter pending in the Land Office in which the commissioner for the time being may have been counsel, may be interested or related to the parties, and on that account incompetent to act, he shall certify the same in writing to the judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, who shall thereupon hear and decide such case or appoint some person to do so, which decision shall have the same effect and be liable to the same incidents as the decision of the commissioner of the Land Office.

**17.** Any vacant land, whether cultivated or uncultivated, and any land which has escheated by reason of the last owner in fee simple dying intestate thereof and without heirs, may be taken up by any person not an alien by complying with the provisions herein contained.

**18.** Any person desiring to take up vacant land or lands which have escheated, shall obtain a warrant from the commissioner of the Land Office, directed to the surveyor of the county where the land lies, requiring him to survey the same, and return a certificate of survey to the Land Office within one year from the date of the war-