

for losses sustained by sheep destroyed or injured by dogs or sluts; but if there remain in the county treasury, to the credit of the "sheep fund" on the first day of September of each year, a sum more than sufficient to pay the awards for damages to sheep, made by the commissioners prior to that date, such surplus shall, upon the order of the commissioners, be paid by their clerk to the school commissioners of Cecil county, to be by them devoted to the purposes of education.

1882, ch. 301.

332. When any inhabitant of Cecil county shall have any sheep destroyed or injured by dogs or sluts, he may apply to any justice of the peace of said county, who shall appoint three disinterested persons as appraisers to view and appraise the damages by him sustained, and they, or a majority of them shall, under oath, state in writing to the county commissioners the number of sheep killed, the character and extent of the injury, if any, done to the flock or any portion thereof, and the amount of damages sustained by the owner; and in like manner they shall give a general description of both the destroyed and injured sheep; and both the appraisers and the owner of the sheep shall make oath that they believe the sheep to have been destroyed or injured by dogs or sluts; and they, or either of them, if the dogs or sluts by which the damage was done be known to them, or either of them, shall state under oath the names of the owners of said dogs or sluts; and when the report of such proceedings shall have been filed in the office of the county commissioners, the said commissioners shall review said report, and if in their judgment the amount of damages stated is unfair, they shall award such amount as they may deem fair; provided, that before the commissioners shall make any award of damages for the killing of sheep, the person claiming damages shall be required to prove to the satisfaction of the county commissioners that he does not know and is unable, with reasonable diligence, to ascertain the owner of the dogs or sluts which did said damage; or if the said owner is known, to prove to the satisfaction of the said commissioners that it is impracticable to collect the amount of damage sustained by suit against the owner of said dogs or sluts; and in case any dog or slut shall be known to kill sheep, or chase or