

CHAPTER 200.

AN ACT to empower the directors of the Maryland penitentiary to purchase or condemn land and improvements for the extension and enlarging the Maryland penitentiary in the city of Baltimore.

WHEREAS, it is necessary that the Maryland penitentiary in Baltimore shall be enlarged and extended; therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the directors of the Maryland penitentiary be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to contract for, purchase and hold in fee-simple or for a term of years, all the several lot of ground and their improvements embraced in the following metes and bounds, that is to say, between Eager street on the north, Concord street on the west, Truxton street on the south and Forrest street on the east, or such portions thereof as they may deem necessary. Empow-
ered.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That if the directors of the Maryland penitentiary cannot agree with the owner or owners of any of said land, or of any interest in the same, that they may deem expedient to acquire and hold by the directors of the Maryland penitentiary for the purpose aforesaid, then in such event, or if the owner thereof, or any of the owners thereof at the time of the application be a *feme covert*, under age, *non compos mentis*, or residing out of Baltimore city, or from any other cause incapable of making title to said land, application may be made for and in the name of the directors of the Maryland penitentiary to any justice of the peace of Baltimore city, who shall thereupon issue his warrant, under his hand and seal, directed to the sheriff of Baltimore city, ordering him to summon a jury of twenty inhabitants of said city, not related to the parties, nor in anywise interested, to meet on the land to be valued on a day named in said warrant, not less than ten nor more than twenty days after issuing the same; and if at said time and place any of said jurors summoned do not attend, the said sheriff shall immediately summon as many jurors as may be necessary with the jurors in attendance, to furnish a panel of twenty jurors in attendance, and from them, each party or his agent, or if either be not present in person or by an agent, the sheriff, for such absent party, may strike off four jurors and the remaining twelve may act as a jury of inquest; and before they act as such the sheriff shall administer to each of them an oath or affirmation, as the case may be, that he will justly and impartially value the land and all interest therein required by the said State of Maryland, for the purpose of enlarging and extending said Maryland penitentiary; and the said jury shall reduce their inquisition to writing and shall sign and seal Jury.