

the rent each year in advance. No person shall be permitted by lease, assignment or in any other manner to acquire a greater amount of land than ten acres situated within the territorial limits of any of the counties, or one hundred acres in any other place. Leases shall be made only to residents of Maryland. The terms of such leases shall be twenty years, and the annual rent reserved to the State shall be one dollar per acre for each of the first two years of said term of twenty years; two dollars per acre for the third year; three dollars per acre for the fourth year; four dollars per acre for the fifth year, and five dollars per acre during the remainder of the term. If any part of the rent reserved under such leases shall remain unpaid for more than six months after the same becomes due, such lease or leases shall be declared void, and the land shall revert to the State, and may be leased again in accordance with the provisions of this Act. The said commissioners may, at the request of any lessee, if it shall appear equitable so to do, upon cause shown in writing, cancel his lease as to the whole or a part of the lands leased.

CHAP. 711

Term of lease.

Declared null and void.

Section 99. In case the survey provided for by this Act shall not have been completed within one year from the passage of this Act, then it shall be the duty of the Board of Shell Fish Commissioners to begin the leasing of barren bottoms in the manner and upon the terms provided in the preceding section; provided, that such leasing shall then commence only in those areas in which the survey provided for in this Act shall have been completed.

Leasing of barren bottoms.

Section 100. For a period of four months after the said survey shall have been completed, or after any area shall have been opened to leasing under the preceding sections, citizens of Maryland residing in any part of the State who, at the time of the completion of said survey, or at the respective times of the opening for oyster culture of several areas, as the case may be, may be owners of land having a water front upon any part of the said areas so opened to oyster culture, shall have the exclusive right to rent any land open to oyster planting under the provisions of this Act, adjacent to their lands. And for an additional period of six months, after the expiration of the said period of four months, all boatmen, residents of this State, who shall be engaged in the business of dredging, scraping or tonging for

Leasing land for oyster culture.