

such sum as may upon such settlement appear to be due the said James T. Blackistone.

In force.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall take effect from and after the date of its passage.

CHAPTER 271.

Passed March 10, 1858.

AN ACT to re-enact a law passed at December session, eighteen hundred and forty-four, chapter two hundred and seventy-eight, concerning the draining of swamps, and low grounds, by the laying out and opening of public ditches in Worcester, Queen Anne's and Dorchester counties, by extending the said act to the whole State.

In case of disagreement three freeholders to be appointed commissioners.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That whenever any owner or owners of any swamps or low grounds, shall deem it fit to have such swamps or low grounds ditched and drained, (if the owners of said lands cannot agree, or should any be *femes covert*, infants, *non compos mentis*, or non residents of the county where the lands are situated) they or any of them may petition the County Commissioners, as the case may be, sitting in the county where such swamp or low ground or any part thereof is situated, for the appointment of commissioners to lay out a ditch or ditches for that purpose, and the said commissioners shall, thereupon, appoint three judicious and impartial freeholders of the neighborhood as such commissioners.

Duty of Commissioners.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the commissioners after being duly sworn or affirmed, to execute their duties under this act faithfully and impartially, and taking to their assistance a skillful surveyor, sworn or affirmed to do his duty in like manner, to go upon and view the swamps and low grounds mentioned in the petition, and lay out, by specified courses and