

Passed Jan. 15. An ACT for building a new gaol in Dorchester county, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Preamble. **W**HEREAS by the petition of fundry inhabitants of Dorchester county it is represented to this general assembly, that there is no gaol in Dorchester county sufficient for the confinement of debtors or felons, which is very injurious to the peace and security of the said county; and it appearing also that there are considerable sums of money due said county for property sold for the use of the same,

Commissioners to contract, &c. **II.** BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Moses Lecompte, James Steele, John E. Gift, Levin Woolford and Thomas Ennalls, or the major part of them, shall contract for materials, and agree with workmen, to build and finish the said gaol, which shall be erected in the town of Cambridge, and to plan and superintend the said building until finished, which, when completed, shall, by the said commissioners, be put into the custody and possession of the sheriff of Dorchester county for the time being, and so shall remain and continue in the custody and possession of such sheriff, and his successors, as a public gaol for Dorchester county.

Money raised to be paid to them, &c. **III.** AND BE IT ENACTED, That the sum or sums of money raised on the sales of property belonging to said county, under an act of assembly passed at November session, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, entitled, An act to authorize and empower the levy court of Dorchester county to assess and levy a sum of money for the purpose therein mentioned, shall be, and the same is hereby directed to be, paid to the commissioners, or a majority of them, who are authorized to receive and apply the same to the erecting and building of a gaol in said county.

Justices to levy money. **IV.** AND BE IT ENACTED, That the justices of the levy court for Dorchester county, at the time of laying their next county levy, be and they are hereby authorized and directed to impose on the assessable property of the said county a sum not exceeding sixteen hundred dollars, together with an allowance to the collector of six per cent. for collection of the same, which sum, when collected, shall by the said sheriff be paid to the commissioners aforesaid, or the major part of them, to be by them applied in the erecting of said gaol.

To be paid to commissioners. **V.** AND BE IT ENACTED, That the sheriff, or any other person appointed to collect the said sum of money for the purpose aforesaid, shall pay the same to the said commissioners, or the order of the major part of them, at or before the time limited by law for the payment of the county charge in the year seventeen hundred and ninety-nine.

If not paid suit to be brought, &c. **VI.** AND BE IT ENACTED, That if the collector or sheriff, as the case may be, should not pay the said sum of money to the commissioners, or the order of a major part of them, on the day above mentioned, that it shall be the duty of the said commissioners, or a majority of them, to order a copy of the said sheriff's or collector's bond, as the case may be, to be filed in the clerk's office of the court of Dorchester county, and thereupon a common *capias ad respondendum* shall issue, and judgment or trial be had at the first court to which the *capias* is returnable, without any imparlance or delay.

Old gaol to be sold, &c. **VII.** AND BE IT ENACTED, That the commissioners, or a majority of them, be and they are hereby empowered to dispose of the old gaol of the said county, with the lot of ground on which the same at present stands, or the said commissioners, or a majority of them, may sell the gaol-house separately from the said lot, or apply and use the materials of the old gaol towards building the new gaol; at their discretion, the said lot of ground to be sold at public auction, in such manner and form, and at such time and times, as the said commissioners may think proper.

Account to be rendered. **VIII.** AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall render a full and fair account to the levy court of said county of the receipts and expenditures of all monies which shall be by them received and expended in virtue of this act.

How vacancies are to be filled. **IX.** AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any of the said commissioners shall die, remove out of the county, or refuse to act, the residue, or a majority of them, shall immediately thereafter proceed to nominate and appoint another to fill the vacancy, whose acts as such shall be as valid and effectual as if he had been originally named in this law.

Passed Jan. 15. An ACT relating to the public roads in Somerset county.

Preamble. **W**HEREAS the present laws relative to the public roads of Somerset county are at present complex, and in part inadequate to the purposes for which they were intended; and as it is necessary that the law should be rendered plain, therefore,

Justices to meet, &c. **II.** BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the justices of the peace for the county aforesaid, or a majority of them, be and they are hereby authorized and required to meet together on the first Monday of April next, and on the same day in every year thereafter, at the court-house in the said county, and when so met together, the said justices, or a majority of them, shall be and they are hereby authorized and required to describe, ascertain, and distinctly record in a well bound book to be provided by them for that purpose, the several and respective public roads in Somerset county, and to nominate and appoint capable and proper persons as overseers of the several and respective public roads aforesaid, according to the number and divisions of the said roads, as the same shall be ascertained upon their records; provided nevertheless, that the said roads shall be so apportioned, divided and described, as not to require a greater number of overseers than eight in any one hundred of the said county; and that the said justices,