

the system, then a flat rate shall be charged all properties in which meters have not yet been installed, which rate shall be uniform in each sanitary district and based upon the amount of water used. Bills for the amount of the charges as above specified shall be sent quarterly or semi-annually, as the [commission] *Department* may determine, to each property served, and shall be thereon payable at the office of the [commission] *Department*; and if any bill remains unpaid after thirty days from date of sending, the [commission] *Department* shall, after written notice left upon the premises or mailed to the last known address of the owner, turn off the water from the property in question, and the water shall not be turned on again until said bill shall have been paid, including a penalty of two dollars (\$2.00). If any bill shall remain unpaid for sixty days after being sent by the [commission] *Department*, it shall be collectible from the owner of the property served in the same manner as other debts are collectible in the county and said ready-to-serve charge, other service charges and all penalties shall be a first lien against said property.

19-15.

The [said commission] *Department* shall have full power and authority to construct, maintain and operate one or more sewage treatment plants and to enter into any contract for the connection of any such sewage treatment plant with the sewerage system of any municipality or of any agency of the federal government and for the connection of its water supply, sewerage or drainage systems, with those of any municipality, the federal government or any agency thereof, for the purchase of water and for the disposal of sewage and other drainage from any sanitary district, and to enter into any other agreement concerning any other matter deemed by the [commission] *Department* to be necessary, advisable or expedient for the proper construction, maintenance and operation of the water supply, sewerage or drainage systems or sewage treatment plants under its control, or those under the control of any municipality or the federal government or any agency thereof.

19-16.

The [commission] *Department* is authorized and empowered to purchase or acquire by gift, any existing water, sewerage or drainage systems in Cecil County, or any other water, sewerage, or drainage systems in said county, which in its judgment are desirable or necessary for the purpose of providing adequate water or sewerage service or both for the residents of said county.

19-17.

(a) Whenever [said commission] *the Department* shall have extended its water supply or sewerage system up to and is ready to connect with any municipality owned or privately owned water supply or sewerage system within Cecil County, and it deems it advisable and proper for the adequate operation of the system under the jurisdiction to take over the said water or sewerage system, it may purchase the same upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon, but before any part of the purchase price is paid, other than a nominal sum of money to bind the agreement,