

leading, one in a direction from Lancaster towards the said bridge at Conowingo, and the other in a direction from Philadelphia towards the said bridge, which two roads are to fall into and unite with each other at the line dividing this state from Pennsylvania, and are now in a course of being opened, formed, and made fit for travelling: And whereas the important public communications above mentioned, may be effected by opening and making a road through a part of Cecil county, from the Conowingo bridge aforesaid, to the Maryland and Pennsylvania line aforesaid, so as to meet the said two roads there, which road, through a part of Cecil county, could not be obtained in the usual course provided by law in less than fourteen months, and might be longer delayed by the opposition of any individual through whose lands it might be necessary for the said road to pass, whereby the great public benefits to be expected from opening the communications aforesaid might be much delayed, and danger would be incurred of their being wholly lost by the discouragement and obstruction which such delay might produce in the opening and making of the said roads in Pennsylvania: And whereas the public interest requires, that under circumstances of so special a nature, a more speedy and certain method should be adopted for the opening and perfecting of the said road from the Conowingo bridge, through a part of Cecil county, to the Maryland and Pennsylvania line; Therefore,

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1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That James L. Porter, Andrew R. Porter, George Gillispie, David Churchman, and Patrick Ewing, be and are hereby appointed commissioners, for the purpose of surveying and locating a road, not exceeding thirty feet wide clear of ditches, from the Conowingo bridge, in Cecil county, to meet the two roads located through Chester and Lancaster counties, in Pennsylvania, leading towards the aforesaid bridge, and to join or meet said roads at the Pennsylvania line.*

Commissioners for locating road

2. *And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the commissioners aforesaid, on or before the first day of September next, to cause a plot and certificate of said road to be made out, and return the same to the levy court of Cecil county at their first sitting thereafter, whereupon it shall be the duty of the levy court of said county to appoint an overseer or supervisor to open and clear said road, agreeably to the plot and certificate aforesaid, and that the said road, when opened and cleared as aforesaid, shall be, and the same is hereby declared to be, for ever thereafter a public road, and shall be kept in repair as other public roads are in said county.*

To cause a plot and certificate of road to be made and returned

3. *And be it enacted, That the said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall have power to agree with persons through whose lands the said road may pass, upon the amount of damages sustained by them, and if the said commissioners cannot make such agreement, then and in that case they shall value and ascertain the damages so as aforesaid sustained by each and every person or persons through whose lands the said road may pass, the lands of the petitioners for this road excepted, by opening the same, taking into consideration the advantages and disadvantages, and return the said agreement or valuation, as the case*

May agree with persons for damages