

And be it enacted, That the lands on the South, Kitterston, and North Mountains, in Frederick and Washington counties, may be taken up on any common warrant, or warrant of resurvey obtained and issued after the first day of May next, at the price of one shilling and eight-pence current money per acre, under the same rules and regulations as other lands, except as to the price aforesaid; and any person owning warrants aforesaid, may apply the same to any warrant to affect such mountain land, or upon compounding for the same, and it shall always be certified by the surveyor who executes the warrant, and shall also be proved by the affidavit of the party, before patent granted, that the land mentioned and contained in the certificate is part of one of the said mountains.

And, whereas Thomas Johnson, James Johnson, Baker Johnson, and Roger Johnson, by their petition to this general assembly have set forth, that they have erected an iron furnace in Frederick county, on a run of water called Rocky-run, where it is expected there is a quantity of excellent ore; that the land of any value in the neighbourhood of the said furnace has been long taken up, and that which lies near it is chiefly thick settled, and a great proportion of it cleared, so that were the said Thomas Johnson, James Johnson, Baker Johnson, and Roger Johnson, able to purchase a stock of land for supplying wood, the income would not indemnify the expence; that there are about two thousand seven hundred acres of vacant land on the Sugar-loaf mountain, in Frederick county, parts of which are well wooded, but is so broken and rocky that a few acres of the whole can be cultivated; that by making roads, a quantity of the wood might be procured in coal for the use of the said furnace, but the charges of taking it up, the assessment, expence of roads, and difficulty of procuring coal, will not be justified by any probable profit to be derived from it; that the said Thomas Johnson, James Johnson, Baker Johnson, and Roger Johnson, are desirous of becoming purchasers of the said vacant land; and this general assembly, being of opinion that the application of the said Thomas Johnson, James Johnson, Baker Johnson, and Roger Johnson, is reasonable; therefore, Be it enacted, That the said Thomas Johnson, James Johnson, Baker Johnson, and Roger Johnson, and the survivors or survivor of them, shall have an exclusive right, until the first day of September next to take up the whole of the said vacant land on the Sugar-loaf mountain, at the price of one shilling and eight-pence current money per acre, on any common warrant, or warrant of resurvey, already issued, or hereafter to be issued before the first day of September next, and no other person shall have a right to take up the said land, at the price aforesaid, until after that day, but if the said Thomas Johnson, James Johnson, Baker Johnson, and Roger Johnson, the survivors or survivor of them, do not take up the said vacant land on the Sugar-loaf mountain, on or before the said first day of September next, then the same may be taken up by any other person, upon the same terms that the land on the other mountains aforesaid may be taken up under this act, and any warrant issued before the first day of January seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and owned by the said Thomas Johnson, James Johnson, Baker Johnson, and Roger Johnson, or either of them, and not applied to any other purpose, may be applied to pay for said vacant land; and any warrant aforesaid owned by any other person taking up the said land after the said first day of September next, upon the said Thomas Johnson, James Johnson, Baker Johnson, and Roger Johnson, omitting to take up the same, may be applied as aforesaid.

And be it enacted, That no assessment shall be demanded for any of the said mountain land upon any nominal or average value, but the same shall pay assessment upon the real value, to be ascertained as may by the legislature at any time be directed.

And be it enacted, That in all cases of disputes before the chancellor upon caveats, he shall have full power and authority to order surveys to be made, and plats to be returned, and to give costs according to his discretion.

George Gale, Esq; brings in and delivers to the president a bill, entitled, An act respecting surplus lands; which was read the first and second time by especial order and will pass.

Thomas Stone, Esq; brings in and delivers to the president a bill, entitled, An act concerning jurisdiction; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The amendments to the bill directing what shall be good evidence to prove foreign and other debts, and deeds and wills, and instruments in writing executed in any of the United States, or in any foreign country, for allowing discounts, and for repealing an act of assembly therein mentioned, were read, assented to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

The bill, entitled, An act to continue the acts of assembly therein mentioned, was read the second time and will pass with the proposed amendment.

Amendment proposed. In the 4th page and sixth line from the bottom, strike out from the word "that" to the end of the clause inclusive.

The bill concerning jurisdiction, was read the second time by especial order, passed, and, with the above bill, and the bill respecting surplus lands, was sent to the house of delegates by Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esq;

Mr. Fraizer, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, MARCH 9, 1786.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

WE have considered the letter of the state agent of the 18th of February last, proposing that the senate and this house appoint some of their members to whom he may communicate a proposal of some measures to be adopted respecting the bank stock, and if the measure be approved by them, that the matter be communicated to the governor and the council, and if they also approve,