

Collection, the several Naval Officers, shall be allowed after the Rate of Eight per Cent.

Signed per Order, John Ross, Cl. Up. Ho.

Which Bill was read here, and with the Amendments proposed, passed for ingrossing.

Mr. Dulany, from the Committee appointed to inspect the Proceedings in the Land Office, and the Abuses, brings in the following Report:

By the Committee appointed to inspect the Proceedings in the Land-Office, and the Abuses therein.

August 5, 1732.

Your Committee hath inspected such Papers as they could come at, and was informed would give any Insight into the Matter given us in Charge, and also the Examination upon Oath, (hereunto annexed) of Mr. George Noble, Surveyor of Prince George's County; whereby it appears, that several Land Warrants have been taken out of the Land-Office, for several large Quantities of Land, and located on very great Tracts, more than the Warrants contained; some of which Warrants have been renewed from Time to Time, and others of them returnable with all convenient Speed, and the Locations continued for several Years, by Colour of the said Warrants, although none of them have been actually executed; Whether the said Warrants have, or have not, been paid for, your Committee have not enquired; but be that as it will, your Committee conceives, that such Practices are very injurious to his Lordship, as well as the People, and a very great Obstruction to the Settling the back Parts of this Province to his Lordship, in preventing great Quantities of his back waste Lands, (now of no Use or Advantage to him,) from being taken up, and paid for, and to the Inhabitants, who would willingly have taken up and paid for great Part of the Lands, under those Locations; which they have been deter'd from doing, for fear of engaging in Disputes with the Proprietors of the said Warrants. The said Practices have had this further mischievous Effects (as your Committee is informed,) that several People who would have come from other Parts, taken up some of the said back Lands and settled on them, have rather chosen to go and settle in Virginia, and other Places, than involve themselves in Disputes, of which they could not hope easily to see an End.

What Locations your Committee has seen, are hereto annexed, which concern Lands only on this Side the Bay, but Master Taylor hath assured your Committee, that the People hath been hindered from taking up Lands on the Eastern Shore, by Locations on very great Bodies of Land there, without any Warrant to found such Locations upon, and affirms, that he can prove the same to the next Assembly; which if true, your Committee conceives to be a greater Abuse, than those on this Side. And submits to the Consideration of the House, whether it may not be proper to refer this Matter to the next Session, and to give Directions to have such Witnesses examined, and their Examinations returned to this House then, to the End the Matter may be put in a clear Light, and proper Measures taken to put an End to Practices so injurious to his Lordship and the People; All which is submitted to the Consideration of the House.

D. Dulany,
Philip Hammond,
Jof. George,
N. Goldsborough,
Peter Taylor,
E. Allen.

MARYLAND

STATE

The Deposition of Mr. George Noble, Surveyor of Prince George's County,

Deposeth,

That Mr. John Diggs, brought a Land Warrant to this Deponent, that as he remembers, was for Ten Thousand Acres, about Four Years ago, and would not lodge it with him, unless he would abate Part of his usual Fee; which this Deponent refused. Upon which the said Diggs, got the Surveyor-General, to direct it on the Back of the Warrant, to be executed by the surveyor of Baltimore County. And since, the said Diggs has claim'd all the vacant Lands on Monocassie, and its Branches, as well as the Branches of Susquehanna; and said, that he would enter a Caveat against the Patent issuing of any Certificate I should return of the Lands on Monocassie, 'til he was served. And this Deponent further saith, That he see a Letter to a certain Joseph Hedge, subscribed John Diggs, that he believes was the said Diggs's Hand Writing, wherein he tells the said Hedge, who had settled on Monocassie, to come to him and make him Satisfaction, for he had settled within his Entry, or to that Purpose. And further saith, I have heard reported, that several People went over to Virginia, that would have settled in Maryland, if Mr. John Diggs's Entry had been removed.

Jurat coram me, 28th Day of July, 1732.

George Noble.

D. Dulany.

Charles Carroll, Esq; Warrant Ten Thousand Acres, located as follows, on the Head of Pipe-Creek, on the Land called *Hishwob*, or where the *Indian-Cabin*, or *Old Fields* are. As also on the Creek called *Conawara*, which falls into *Susquehanna*, and the Drafts thereof, and the Lands contiguous. Also on a Creek called *Codoras*, and the Drafts thereof, and Lands contiguous, and opposite to *Cnostogo-Creek* on *Susquehanna*. As also on a Creek, called *Thomas's-Creek*, and the Drafts thereof, falling into *Monocassie*, and at the Mouth of the said *Thomas's-Creek*.

A Reserve of Ten Thousand Acres, in Prince George's County, within such Meers and Bounds, as may be most profitable for his Lordship, and Survey to be returned with all convenient Speed, dated May 23, 1724.

Thus Located May 28, 1724. The with Reserve, is located on the most convenient and profitable Land on *Potowmack*, River, at that Place commonly called *Congocheigoo*,

per John Siedert, Deputy Surveyor,
Warrant,