

to affect the same, but none of the said warrants have been so far completed as to serve as the ground-work for a patent. This circumstance, although it neither does or can invalidate the title of the said holders, yet it operates as a considerable grievance and burthen to the said proprietors, and lessen the value of the property; the committee can therefore see no impropriety in releasing the right of the state to said property, saving all claims existing antecedent to the passage of the act.

By order,

J. F. HARRIS, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Key, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a report on the message of the senate; which was read.

Mr. Calvert, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, A supplement to the act, entitled, An act for the valuation of real and personal property within this state, passed at November session, seventeen hundred and ninety-seven; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The supplement to an act directing the time, places and manner, of holding elections for representatives of this state in the congress of the United States, and for appointing electors on the part of this state for choosing a president and vice-president of the United States, and for the regulation of the said elections, and also to repeal the act of assembly therein mentioned, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill to lay a tax on billiard tables. ORDERED, That Mr. Bruce, Mr. E. K. Wilson and Mr. Thomas, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The report on the petition of Charles Jeffop, and others, was read the second time, concurred with, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto. ORDERED, That the committee appointed on the said petition prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Key, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the memorial of Vachel Stevens, examiner-general of the western shore, report, that on examination of the fee book of said examiner they find, that his annual receipts for the duties of his office do not amount to the sum of two hundred pounds current money, and is annually declining in amount. They further report to the house, that the services performed by the examiner-general of the western shore are at least treble what are performed by the same officer on the eastern shore; they further report, that the fees of the office of the examiner on the eastern shore do not exceed seventy-five pounds, and that he is paid, out of the treasury, a sum which, in addition to his fees, will make a salary of two hundred per annum. The committee are of opinion, that the office of examiner-general of the eastern shore ought to be suppressed, or that a sum should be paid to the examiner-general of the western shore, which should annually, in addition to his fees, make up three hundred pounds per annum, but which would be proper to adopt they submit to the house, and have annexed two resolutions to take the sense of the house.

RESOLVED, That the examiner-general of the western shore annually state an account, on oath, of all fees arising from services done by him in the execution of the duties of his office, specifying the sums, the times when and the persons from whom received; and the treasurer of the western shore is hereby authorized, on receipt of such statement, to pay to said examiner as much money as, in addition to his fees, will make up eight hundred dollars per annum; and the treasurer is directed to lay said statement, and the sum by him paid, annually before the legislature.

RESOLVED, That the office of examiner-general of the eastern shore be suppressed, and that all certificates of survey hereafter made on the eastern shore shall be examined by the examiner-general of the western shore, as was practised before the appointment of a similar office on the eastern shore.

By order,

R. K. WATTS, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Edmondson, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, A supplement to the act, entitled, An act for the valuation of real and personal property within this state, passed at November session, seventeen hundred and ninety-seven; which was read the first and second time by especial order, passed, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

The report on the petition of fundry insolvent debtors was read the second time; and the first clause in the said report concurred with, and leave given to bring in a supplement to the act for the relief of fundry insolvent debtors. ORDERED, That the committee appointed on the petition of insolvent debtors prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Carroll, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act to release the right of this state to a lot in the city of Baltimore to Charles Jeffop, and others; which was read the first and second time by especial order, passed, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

Mr. M'Pherson, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a report on the petition of an insolvent debtor; which was read.

Mr. E. K. Wilson, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom were referred the resolutions from the legislature of Virginia, respecting the alien and sedition laws passed at the last session of congress, report, that they have had the same under their most serious consideration, and after mature deliberation declare it as their decided opinion, that no state government, by a legislative act, is competent to declare an act