

chase or purchases, declare his or their intention to become a citizen or citizens, agreeably to the act of congress, entitled, "An act supplementary to, and to amend the act, entitled, 'An act to establish an uniform rule of naturalization, and to repeal the act heretofore passed on the subject,' " passed the eighteenth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight.

[Section II.] (Section II, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any foreigner or foreigners, alien or aliens, who has or have already made any bona fide contract or contracts, or received any patent or patents, or other deed of conveyance, for or on account of the purchase of any lands, tenements or hereditaments within this commonwealth, may and shall take and hold the same in fee simple, or for any lesser estate, according to the nature of his, her or their several and respective contracts, patents or deeds of conveyance, as fully, to all intents and purposes, as any natural born citizen or citizens might or could do, any law, usage or custom to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Passed April 11, 1799. Recorded L. B. No. 7, p. 23, etc.

CHAPTER MMLXXXIX.

AN ACT TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR OF THIS COMMONWEALTH TO APPOINT COMMISSIONERS, TO ASCERTAIN THE BEST ROUTE FOR, AND MODE OF EFFECTING, A COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE WATERS OF THE DELAWARE AND CHESPEAKE BAY, AND APPROPRIATING A SUM OF MONEY FOR OPENING THE NAVIGATION OF THE RIVER SUSQUEHANNA DOWN TO THE MARYLAND LINE.

Whereas a communication between the waters of the Delaware and Chesapeake Bay, and the opening the navigation of the river Susquehanna, would greatly promote the interest of the inhabitants of this and the adjoining states of Maryland and Delaware, and be productive of considerable advantage to the inhabitants of other states, and there is reason to believe the same may be perfected at a very moderate expense, compared with the benefits likely to be experienced therefrom.

[Section I.] (Section I, P. L.) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the governor of the commonwealth be, and he is hereby, authorized and empowered to appoint three commissioners, for the purpose of exploring and ascertaining the best course or track for effecting a communication between the waters of the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays, by means of a canal; and it shall be the duty of said commissioners, jointly with commissioners who shall [or may] be appointed on behalf of the states of Maryland and Delaware, to explore and ascertain the best course or tract on which the same may be effected, and report the same, with a draught and description thereof, and of all and every the works and locks requisite to its complete operation, also an estimate of the probable expense of perfecting all and every part thereof, to the governor of this commonwealth; which said commissioners shall be allowed three dollars and fifty cents each for every day necessarily employed by them respectively, in performing the duties of their appointment, to be paid to them on the warrants of the governor, out of the funds appropriated for the support of government.

[Section II.] (Section II, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated to defray the expenses of improving the navigation the river Susquehanna, from Wright's ferry to the Maryland line, for which purpose the governor is hereby authorized to contract with such person or persons, as may be desirous and capable of effecting the same, in the most advantageous and effectual manner, and [may] from time to time draw warrants on the state treasurer for such parts of the said sum as may be requisite, until the whole shall be expended, which warrants shall be paid by the state treasurer, out of the moneys appropriated for the support of government.

[Section III.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That none of the provisions in the foregoing sections contained shall be of any force or effect until provision by law shall have been made by the respective legisla-

tures of the states of Maryland and Delaware, for the purpose of effecting the said communications with the waters of the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays, by means of a canal; and any individual or company who shall, without proper authority from the governor of this commonwealth, remove or attempt to remove the obstructions in the river Susquehanna between Wright's ferry and the Maryland line, shall be fined in a sum not less than two hundred dollars nor more than two thousand dollars, with such imprisonment, as the court before whom they are prosecuted in their discretion may direct, not exceeding six months.

Passed April 11, 1799. Recorded L. B. No. 7, p. 19, etc.

CHAPTER MMXC.

AN ACT CONCERNING WRITS OF PARTITION.

[Section I.] (Section I, P. L.) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the supreme court shall have original jurisdiction over the whole commonwealth, as to the granting and proceeding upon writs of partition, at the suit of any tenant in common, joint tenant or copartner, and that such writs may be directed to and executed by the sheriff of any one county, wherein any part of the lands and tenements intended to be divided are situate, who shall have power, in cases where lands lie in different adjacent counties, or where the lands lie partly in one county and partly in another, to summon a proportionable number of jurymen of the freeholders of each of the said counties, to form an inquest for making a just and equal partition between the parties; and that such sheriff shall hold the inquisition either in his own county or [any] such adjacent county, and make return thereof to the court, as in ordinary