

At the succeeding convention in May, 1776, was elected another council of safety, consisting of nine persons, five on the western and four on the eastern shore, to continue until the end of the next convention, and to exercise the same powers as were conferred on the last council, which, in the beginning of the convention, was authorized, in any matter depending before them, to issue *subpœnas* for witnesses to attend their order, and in case of disobedience to issue attachment, directed to a captain of the militia, to fine not exceeding £. 5, for the contempt; and in case of a refusal to testify, to commit the party to the custody of any captain of the militia, and compel him to pay the costs; but they were not to oblige a person to give evidence if he should declare, on oath, that he is interested.

At the next convention in June, 1776, nine persons were elected as a council with the same powers as were vested in the last council.

And by the last convention was elected a council, consisting of the same number, and vested with the same powers as the last. This council, if they thought proper, might call the general assembly before the day prescribed by the constitution; and their power was to continue until the constitutional legislature should therein take further order.

Besides these general powers intrusted to the councils of safety, they were from time to time authorized to do many acts which have no relation to the powers.

At a SESSION of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of MARYLAND, begun and held at the city of ANNAPOLIS, on Monday the sixteenth of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, and ended the 29th day of the same month: The following laws were enacted.

THOMAS JOHNSON, Esq; Governor.

C H A P. I.

An ACT to continue an act for suspending the power of the commissioners for building a court-house and prison in Harford county.

C H A P. II.

An ACT directing the justices of Frederick county to ascertain the number of taxables in Washington and Montgomery counties, and to enable the sheriffs of those counties to collect their proportion of the public levy, as settled by the justices of Frederick county.

The court of Frederick county is directed to meet on the 10th of July next, to ascertain the number of taxables in Washington and Montgomery, and to transmit a copy of their proceedings to the justices of each of these counties, together with a list of the insolvents, fines, forfeitures and americiaments, due in each for the years 1775 and 1776, and a transcript of the levy for 1776. The justices of the three counties are then to furnish copies to their respective sheriffs, who are authorized to make their collections by distress and sale, notwithstanding the law respecting the delivery of duplicate accounts,

C H A P. III.

An ACT to enable the corporation of the city of Annapolis to sell or lease certain lands, and to enlarge and ascertain the jurisdiction of the mayor's court of the said city.

WHEREAS the ground heretofore laid out and reserved for the building of ships and other vessels within the said city is found to be inconvenient for such purposes, Preamble.

II. Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That the corporation of the city of Annapolis, and their successors, shall have full power and authority to sell and dispose of the said ground, or to lease the same, as they shall think most advantageous, and to make and execute any conveyance or conveyances, lease or leases, thereof, or any part thereof, as they may think proper, under the seal of the corporation, and such conveyance or lease shall be good and effectual in law, if recorded within the time limited by law; and that so much of the monies arising from such sales, and of the rents to be reserved on any leases respecting the premises, shall be applied towards the purchase of one or more places within the said city as the said corporation shall think fit, for the building of ships and other vessels, and the overplus, if any, shall be applied by the corporation of the said city for the benefit thereof.

Corporation may sell or lease ground reserved for building ships, &c.