

preceding section, may discontinue such joint fence, after giving three months' notice in writing to the party, his agent or overseer; in all other cases (unless by mutual consent) twelve months' notice shall be given to discontinue any joint fence.

P. L. L., 1888, Art. 6, sec. 138. 1860, Art. 6, sec. 89.

**234.** In all suits or actions brought to recover damages for trespass upon any land in said county by any kind of live stock, the defendant may plead the general issue and give the special matter in evidence, and the plaintiff shall be nonsuited whenever it shall be clearly proven that the lands whereon the trespass is alleged to have been done were not enclosed according to this subtitle of this Article.

### FIRE COMPANIES.

1927, ch. 270, sec. 1.

**235.** The County Commissioners of Caroline County are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to pay the sum of eight hundred dollars (\$800.00) annually to the several volunteer fire companies so long as said fire companies remain active bodies, and active fire fighting organizations for their benefit, said sum of money to be used by the respective fire companies for the purchase, repair or maintenance of fire fighting equipment.

1927, ch. 270, sec. 2.

**236.** Said payment shall be made on the first day of September in each and every year by the County Commissioners of Caroline County, and it shall be distributed as follows: To the Denton Volunteer Fire Company, Incorporated, of Denton, Maryland, the sum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00); to the Federalsburg Fire Company of Federalsburg, Maryland, the sum of two hundred and fifty (\$250.00) dollars; to the Ridgely Fire Company of Ridgely, Maryland, the sum of two hundred and fifty (\$250.00) dollars.

1927, ch. 270, sec. 3.

**237.** The County Commissioners of Caroline County be and the same are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to levy the said sum of eight hundred (\$800.00) dollars annually for the above purpose on the assessable property of said Caroline County. Before the County Commissioners shall be required to pay the aforesaid sums of money to the respective fire companies, the said Commissioners shall have the power to require the officers of said fire companies to appear before them and show to the satisfaction of said Commissioners that any sums of money paid by the said Commissioners to the said fire companies under this Act have been expended for the purposes set forth in this Act, and also that said respective fire companies are active fire fighting organizations. In the event any of the fire companies hereinbefore mentioned cease to remain active fire fighting organizations, or have not used the moneys appropriated to them for the sole purposes set forth in this Act, then the County Com-