

Abstracts to be made out and forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury by the commissioners.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the said commissioners shall respectively, under such instructions as the Secretary of the Treasury may, with the approbation of the President of the United States, transmit to them in relation thereto, prepare, and cause to be prepared, abstracts from the records of the claims filed as aforesaid, in which the claims shall be arranged into classes, according to their respective merits, and other circumstances whereby they may be diversified; the abstracts shall contain the substance of the evidence adduced in support of, or obtained respecting the claims, and shall contain such other information and remarks as may be necessary to a proper decision thereon, which abstracts the commissioners shall respectively, as soon as may be, report to the Secretary of the Treasury, and shall by him be laid before Congress at the next session thereafter for their determination thereon.

A list of actual settlers to be made by commissioners and reported to Congress.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That the said commissioners be, and they are hereby authorized and required to collect and report to Congress, at their next session, a list of all the actual settlers on land in said districts, respectively, who have no claims to land derived either from the French, British or Spanish governments, and the time at which such settlements were made.

Rates of compensation.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That each of the said commissioners shall be allowed as compensation for his services in relation to the said claims, at the rate of fifteen hundred dollars a year; and each of the clerks, at the rate of one thousand dollars a year: *Provided,* that not more than eighteen months' compensation be thus allowed to the commissioner and clerk for the district east of Pearl river; nor more than two years' compensation be allowed to the commissioner and clerk for the district west of Pearl river; and the commissioner for the eastern district, on making his report to the Secretary of the Treasury, as aforesaid, shall be entitled to receive in addition seven hundred and fifty dollars, and his clerk five hundred dollars; and the commissioner for the western district, on making his report aforesaid, shall receive one thousand dollars, and his clerk seven hundred and fifty dollars; and the said allowances shall be in full for their services under this act.

Proviso.

APPROVED, April 25, 1812.

STATUTE I.

April 25, 1812.

CHAP. LXVIII.—*An Act for the establishment of a General Land-Office in the Department of the Treasury.*(a)

Office established.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be established in the department of the treasury an office, to be denominated the General Land-Office; the chief officer of which shall be called the commissioner of the general land-office, whose duty it shall be, under the direction of the head of the department, to superintend, execute and perform, all such acts and things, touching or respecting the public lands of the United States, and other lands patented or granted by the United States, as have heretofore been directed by law to be done or performed in the office of the Secretary of State, of the Secretary and Register of the Treasury, and of the Secretary of War, or which shall hereafter by law be assigned to the said office.

Commissioner to be appointed.

His duties.

Chief clerk to be appointed.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be in the said office, an inferior officer, to be appointed by the said principal officer, to be employed therein as he shall deem proper, and to be called the chief clerk of the general land-office, who, in all cases, when the said principal office shall become vacant, during such vacancy, shall have the charge and custody of the seal, and of all records, books and papers, belonging to the said office.

(a) See act of July 4, 1836, chap. 352.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said principal officer, and every other person to be appointed and employed in the said office, shall, before he enters on the duties of his office or appointment, take an oath or affirmation, truly and faithfully to execute the trust committed to him.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioner shall cause a seal of office to be made and provided for the said office, with such device as the President of the United States shall approve; and copies of any records, books or papers, belonging to the said office, under the signature of the said commissioner, or, when the office shall be vacant, under the signature of the chief clerk; and the said seal shall be competent evidence in all cases in which the original records, books or papers could be evidence.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioner shall, forthwith, after his appointment, be entitled to the custody, and shall take charge of the said seal, and also of all records, books and papers, remaining in the offices of the Secretary of State, of the Secretary and Register of the Treasury, and of the Secretary of War, touching or concerning the public lands of the United States; and the said records, books and papers shall become, and be deemed the records, books and papers, of the said office.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioner shall, when required by the President of the United States, or either house of Congress, make a plat of any land surveyed under the authority of the United States, and give such information respecting the public lands, and concerning the business of his office, as shall be directed.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That in all cases in which land has heretofore, or shall hereafter be given by the United States for military services, warrants shall be granted to the parties entitled to such land by the Secretary of War: and such warrants shall be recorded in the said land-office, in books to be kept for the purpose, and shall be located as is, or may be provided by law; and patents shall afterwards be issued accordingly.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That all patents issuing from the said office, shall be issued in the name of the United States, and under the seal of the said office, and be signed by the President of the United States, and countersigned by the commissioner of the said office; and shall be recorded in the said office, in books to be kept for the purpose.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That all returns relative to the public lands, heretofore directed to be made to the Secretary of the Treasury, shall hereafter be made to the said commissioner, who shall have power to audit and settle all public accounts relative to the public lands: *Provided*, that it shall be the duty of the said commissioner, upon the settlement of any such account, to certify the balance, and transmit the account with the vouchers and certificate to the comptroller of the treasury, for his examination and decision thereon.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That no person appointed to an office instituted by this act, or employed in any such office, shall directly or indirectly be concerned in the purchase of any right, title or interest, in any public land, either in his own right, or in trust for any other person, or in the name or right of any other person in trust for himself, nor shall take or receive any fee or emolument for negotiating or transacting the business of the office. And any person offending in the premises against the prohibitions of this act, shall forfeit and pay one hundred dollars; and, upon conviction, shall be removed from office.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That the commissioner of the said land-office, shall be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and shall receive an annual salary, equal to the salary of the auditor of the treasury, payable

Oaths of office to be taken by all persons employed.

A seal to be provided.

Copies of records under the signature of the commissioner and the seal evidence.

Act of July 4, 1836, ch. 352, sec. 7.

Commissioner to have the custody of the seal and of the books, papers and records relating to land.

Commissioner upon the requisition of the President or Congress, to make plats, &c.

Warrants to be given by Secretary of War for military lands.

Patents to be issued.

Patents how to be executed.

Act of July 4, 1836, ch. 352, sec. 10.

Returns to be made to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Accounts to be settled at the commissioner's office.

Proviso.

No person employed in the office to be engaged, directly or indirectly in the purchase of public lands.

Act of July 4, 1836, ch. 352, sec. 14.

Commissioner of the land-office, how to be appointed.

Compensation. quarterly; and the sum of two thousand two hundred and fifty dollars is hereby appropriated for the said compensation, during the year one thousand eight hundred and twelve, to be paid out of any monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated—and the said commissioner shall have the same privilege with the comptroller of the treasury, of sending and receiving letters and packages, and also final certificates and patents for land, free of postage.

Commissioner to have the privilege of franking.

1810, ch. 37, sec. 24.

Clerks to be employed.
Proviso.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the commissioner of the land-office shall be authorized to employ a sufficient number of clerks: *Provided*, that their annual compensation shall not exceed in the whole, seven thousand dollars; and the said compensation shall be paid in the following manner during the year one thousand eight hundred and twelve; that is to say: three thousand eight hundred dollars shall be paid out of the monies appropriated for the compensation of clerks, during said year, in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury; one thousand four hundred dollars shall be paid out of the monies appropriated for the compensation of clerks, during said year, in the office of the Secretary of State: and three hundred dollars shall be paid out of the monies appropriated for the compensation of clerks, during said year, in the office of the Secretary of War.

APPROVED, April 25, 1812.

STATUTE I

April 25, 1812.

CHAP. LXXIX.—*An Act to revive and continue in force "An act to provide for persons who were disabled by known wounds received in the Revolutionary War," and for other purposes.*(a)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the act, entitled "An

(a) Acts relative to Revolutionary Invalid Pensions:—

An act providing for the payment of the invalid pensioners of the United States. (Expired.) September 29, 1789, chap. 24.

An act further to provide for the payment of the invalid pensioners of the United States. (Expired.) July 16, 1790, chap. 27.

An act to provide for the settlement of the claims of widows and orphans, barred by the limitations heretofore established, and to regulate the claims to invalid pensions. (Obsolete.) March 23, 1792, chap. 11.

An act to regulate the claims to invalid pensions. (Obsolete.) February 28, 1793, chap. 17.

An act concerning invalids. (Obsolete.) June 7, 1794, chap. 57.

Resolution. (Obsolete.) June 9, 1794.

Resolution. (Obsolete.) April 13, 1796.

An act to make provision for persons that have been disabled by known wounds received in the actual service of the United States, during the revolutionary war. (Repealed.) March 3, 1803, chap. 37.

An act for the relief of certain military pensioners in the state of South Carolina. (Obsolete.) March 3, 1804, chap. 18.

An act in addition to "an act making provision for persons that have been disabled by known wounds received in the actual service of the United States, during the revolutionary war," March 3, 1805, chap. 44.

An act to provide for persons who were disabled by known wounds received in the revolutionary war, April 10, 1806, chap. 25.

An act to revive and continue in force, "an act to provide for persons who were disabled by known wounds received in the revolutionary war," and for other purposes. (Expired.) April 25, 1812, chap. 69.

An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States, in the revolutionary war, March 18, 1818, chap. 18.

An act concerning invalid pensioners. (Expired.) March 3, 1819, chap. 97.

An act in addition to an act entitled, "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States, in the revolutionary war," passed the 18th day of March, 1818, May 1, 1820, chap. 51.

An act to revive and continue in force, "an act to provide for persons who were disabled by known wounds received in the revolutionary war," and for other purposes. (Expired.) May 15, 1820, ch. 108.

An act to revive and continue in force an act entitled, "An act to provide for persons who were disabled by known wounds received in the revolutionary war." (Expired.) February 4, 1822, chap. 6.

An act supplementary to the acts providing for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States, March 3, 1823, chap. 58.

An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the army of the revolution, May 15, 1828, chap. 53.

An act supplementary to the "act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the army of the revolution," June 7, 1832, chap. 126.