

Proviso.

one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, and every four years thereafter, the office of each of the said judges shall become vacant: *Provided*, That nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to deprive the judges of the territory of the jurisdiction conferred upon them by the laws of the United States.

Legislature empowered to submit the question for a general assembly.

Organization, &c. of a general assembly.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the legislature shall have power to submit, at any time, to the people of the said territory, the question, whether a general assembly shall be organized agreeably to the provisions of the ordinance aforesaid; and, if a majority of the qualified electors shall be in favour of such organization, then the powers vested by this act in the legislative council shall cease and determine, and a general assembly shall be organized, in conformity with the said ordinance, subject to the following provision: The governor [governor] of the said territory shall divide the same into five districts, and the qualified voters in each district shall elect one member of the legislative council, which shall possess the same powers heretofore granted to the legislative council of the North-western territory; and the members of the council shall hold their offices four years; and until there shall be five thousand free white male inhabitants, of twenty-one years and upwards, in said territory, the whole number of Representatives to the general assembly shall not be less than seven, nor more than nine, to be apportioned by the governor [governor] to the several counties in the said territory, agreeably to the number of free white males above the age of twenty-one years, which they may contain: but after the organization of the general assembly, the apportionment of the representation shall be made by such assembly: *Provided*, That there shall not be more than twelve, nor less than seven, of the whole number of representatives, until there shall be six thousand free white male inhabitants, above the age of twenty-one years; after which, the number of representatives shall be regulated agreeably to the ordinance aforesaid.

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Powers of the governor.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the governor [governor] of the said territory shall have power to grant pardons for offences against the laws of the said territory, and reprieves for those against the United States, until the decision of the President thereon [thereon] shall be made known.

Laws of the United States inconsistent with this act repealed as to Michigan.

There shall be only one clerk of the Supreme Court.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That, so much of the ordinance aforesaid, and laws of the United States, as are inconsistent with the provisions of this act, be, and the same are hereby, as respects the territory of Michigan, repealed.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the first day of June next, there shall be but one clerk of the supreme court of the territory of Michigan, who shall perform all the duties of clerk of said court, whether sitting as a circuit and district court, or as judges of the territorial court.

Officers of the treasury to settle the accounts of John J. Deming.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the accounting officers of the treasury shall settle and adjust the accounts of John J. Deming, making him a reasonable allowance for his services as clerk of said district and circuit court, up to the first day of June next, and that the same be paid out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

APPROVED, March 3, 1823.

STATUTE II.

March 1, 1823.

Accounting officers of the

CHAP. XXXVII.—*An Act in addition to the act, entitled "An act for the prompt settlement of public accounts," and for the punishment of the crime of perjury. (a)*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That, in the settlement of accounts of persons remaining charged, on the books of the third auditor

(a) An act to provide for the prompt settlement of public accounts, March 3, 1817, ch. 45.

An act providing for the better organization of the Treasury Department, May 15, 1820, ch. 107. See notes to act of May 15, 1820, ch. 107.

of the treasury, with public moneys, advanced prior to the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, the proper accounting officers be, and they are hereby, authorized to admit, to the credit of such persons, respectively, the amount of any expenditures made by them, which were, at the time, authorized by law, or regulations, notwithstanding regular vouchers for the same may not be produced, if the intractability of producing such vouchers shall be proved to the satisfaction of the said accounting officers; and if the evidence exhibited, in lieu thereof, shall be the best the nature of the several cases will admit of, and such as will be received in courts of justice: *Provided, nevertheless*, That the credits to be allowed shall, in no case, exceed, in amount, the sums with which such persons, respectively, shall be charged on the books of the said third auditor.

treasury to admit expenditures in certain cases, and under certain restrictions.

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SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever, in the settlement of the accounts before mentioned, a difference of opinion shall arise between the accounting officers, as to the extent of the credits to be allowed, under, or by virtue of, this act, such case shall be referred to the Secretary of War, whose decision shall be conclusive. And it is hereby made the duty of the said secretary, to cause to be communicated to Congress, at the commencement of each session, a statement comprising the names of the persons whose accounts shall have been settled the preceding year, agreeably to the provisions of this act, together with the amount which shall have been passed to the credit of each, under the several heads of expenditure, and upon evidence other than such as had been prescribed by the laws and regulations existing before the passage of this act.

In a difference of opinion, the case shall be referred to the Secretary of War.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall swear or affirm falsely, touching the expenditure of public money, or in support of any claim against the United States, he or she shall, upon conviction thereof, suffer as for wilful and corrupt perjury. (a)

Any person swearing falsely, shall suffer as for wilful and corrupt perjury.

APPROVED, March 1, 1823.

STATUTE II.

CHAP. XXXVIII.—*An Act for the punishment of frauds committed on the government of the United States.*

March 3, 1823.

[Obsolete.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That, if any person or per-

Persons guilty of certain frauds

(a) Indictment for false swearing under the third section of the act of Congress of March 1, 1823, which declares, that "any person who shall swear or affirm falsely, touching the expenditure of public money, or in support of any claim against the United States, shall suffer as for wilful and corrupt perjury." The indictment charged the false swearing to be an affidavit made before a justice of the peace of Kentucky in support of a claim against the United States, under the act of July 5, 1832, ch. 173, to provide for liquidating and paying certain claims of the state of Virginia. By the Supreme Court—There is no statute of the United States which expressly authorizes any justice of the peace of the state, or any officer of the national government to administer an oath in support of any claim against the United States under the act of 1823. *The United States v. Bailey*, 9 Peters, 238.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in order to carry into effect the authority given to him, to liquidate and pay the claims referred to in the act of 1832, had established a regulation authorizing affidavits made before any justice of the peace of a state, to be received and considered in proof of claims under the act. By implication, he possessed the power to make such a regulation, and to allow such affidavits in proof of claims under the act of 1832. It was incidental to his duty and authority in settling claims under the act. When the oath is taken before a state or national magistrate, authorized to administer oaths in pursuance of any regulations prescribed by the Treasury Department, or in conformity with the practice of the Treasury Department, so that the affidavit would be admissible evidence at the Department in support of any claim against the United States, and the party swears falsely, the case is within the purview of the act of 1823. *Ibid.*

If a state magistrate shall administer an oath, under an act of Congress expressly giving him the power to do so, it would be a lawful oath, before one having competent authority, and as much so as if he had been specially appointed a commissioner under a law of the United States for that purpose, and such an oath, administered under such circumstances, would be within the purview of the act of 1823. *Ibid.*

The act of 1823 does not create or punish the crime of perjury, technically considered. But it creates a new and substantial offence of false swearing, and punishes it in the same manner as perjury. The oath, therefore, need not be administered in a judicial proceeding, or in a case in which the state magistrate, under the state laws, had jurisdiction, so as to make the false swearing perjury. It would be sufficient, that it might be lawfully administered by the magistrate, and was not in violation of his official duty. *Ibid.*