

For a violation of this provision, the person offending shall suffer a penalty of fifty dollars.

APPROVED, March 2, 1827.

STATUTE II.

CHAP. LXII.—*An Act to increase the salary of the Postmaster General.*

March 2, 1827.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That, from the first day of the present year, there shall be paid, annually, to the Postmaster General, two thousand dollars, in addition to his present salary.

2,000 dollars to be paid him, annually, in addition to his present pay.

APPROVED, March 2, 1827.

STATUTE II.

CHAP. LXXVII.—*An Act for altering the times of holding the district court of the United States for the eastern district of Virginia, holden at the city of Richmond. (a)*

March 3, 1827.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the terms of the district court of the United States for the eastern district of Virginia, now directed to be holden in the city of Richmond, on the second day of April, and the fifteenth day of October, in every year, shall, in future, be held in the said city on the fifteenth day of May, and on the fifteenth day of November, annually; and that all suits, actions, and proceedings of whatever kind, now depending in, or returnable to, said court, shall be taken to be continued or returnable to the terms herein established.

Terms of the district court for the eastern district, changed.

APPROVED, March 3, 1827.

STATUTE II.

CHAP. LXXVIII.—*An Act supplementary to the several acts providing for the adjustment of land claims in the state of Alabama. (b)*

March 3, 1827.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the claimants of lands, town lots, or out-lots, within that part of the limits of the former land district, of Jackson Courthouse, which is embraced in the state of Alabama, whose claims have been presented to the commissioners appointed to receive and examine claims and titles to lands, in said district of Jackson Courthouse, or to the register and receiver of the land office at Jackson Courthouse, acting as commissioners under the provisions of the act

Course to be pursued by claimants of lands, &c. within a certain part of the former land district of Jackson Courthouse.

(a) See notes to the act of Feb. 4, 1819, ch. 12, for a list of the acts relating to the district courts in Virginia.

(b) A concession of lands made by the Spanish authorities at Mobile in the year 1806, cannot be given in evidence in support of an ejectment in the courts of the United States, the same not having been recorded or passed upon by the board of commissioners or register of the land office established by the acts of Congress relating to land titles in that country. *De La Croix v. Chamberlain*, 12 Wheat. 599, 6 Cond. Rep. 659.

It is the settled doctrine of the judicial department of the government, that the treaty of 1819, with Spain, ceded to the United States no territory west of the Perdido. It had already been acquired by the Louisiana treaty. *Pollard et al. v. Files*, 2 Howard, 591.

In the interval between the Louisiana treaty and the time when the United States took possession of the country west of the Perdido, the Spanish government had the right to grant permits to settle and improve by cultivation or to authorize the erection of establishments for mercantile purposes. *Ibid.*

These incipient concessions are not disregarded by Congress, but are recognised in the acts of 1804, 1812, 1819, and as claims are within the act of 1824. *Ibid.*

The act of 1824 gives a title to the owners of old water lots in Mobile, only where an improvement was made east of Water street, and made by the proprietor of the lot on the west side of that street, such person could not claim as riparian proprietor, or where his lot had a definite limit on the east. *Ibid.*

See the case of *Foster and Elam v. Neilson*, 2 Peters, 253.

See notes to the act of May 26, 1824, ch. 185, "An act granting certain lots of ground to the corporation of the city of Mobile, and to certain individuals of said city."

Act of March
3, 1819, ch. 99.

of the third of March, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, entitled "An act for adjusting the claims to lands, and establishing land offices, in the district east of the Island of New Orleans," and which have not been reported to Congress, or whose claims have not heretofore been presented to the said commissioners, or to the register and receiver, acting as commissioners, or whose claims have been acted upon, but additional evidence adduced, be allowed until the first day of September, eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, to present their titles and claims, and the evidence in support of the same to the register and receiver of the land office at St. Stephen's, in the state of Alabama, whose powers and duties, in relation to the same, shall, in all respects, be governed by the provisions of the acts before recited, and of the act of the eighth of May, eighteen hundred and twenty-two, entitled "An act supplementary to the several acts for adjusting the claims to land, and establishing land offices, in the district east of the Island of New Orleans."

Act of May 8,
1822, ch. 128.

Power given
to the register
and receiver.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said register and receiver shall have power to receive and examine such titles and claims, and, for that purpose, shall hold their sessions at the city of Mobile; they shall give suitable notice of the time and place of their sessions, but may adjourn from time to time, and meet at such other places as may be necessary, or may best suit the convenience of the claimants, on giving proper notice of the time of their adjournments. And the said register and receiver shall have power to appoint a clerk, who shall be a person capable of translating the French and Spanish languages, and who shall perform the duty of translator, and such other duty as may be required by the said register and receiver, and the said register and receiver shall each be allowed, as a compensation for their services, in relation to said claims, and for the services to be performed under the provisions of the several acts to which this is a supplement, at the rate of one thousand dollars per annum; and the clerk at the rate of one thousand dollars per annum; which several sums of money shall be paid out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated: *Provided*, That no more than one year's compensation shall be thus allowed to either the register or receiver, or clerk; and the payment of the whole of the aforesaid compensation shall be withheld by the Secretary of the Treasury, until a report, to be approved by him, shall have been made to him, of the performance of the services for which the same is allowed.

Proviso.

Duty of the
register and
receiver of the
land office at
Augusta, in
Mississippi.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the register and receiver of the land office at Augusta, in the state of Mississippi, be, and they are hereby, required to separate, so far as practicable, from the titles to lands in Mississippi, all such papers or claims, or evidence of claims, for any tract of land or town lot, lying in the state of Alabama, and certify the same generally to the register of the land office at St. Stephen's, in the state of Alabama; and, on proper application, to deliver them over to the said register, whose duty it shall be to receive the same, and preserve them among the records of his office.

APPROVED, March 3, 1827.

STATUTE II.

March 3, 1827.

[Obsolete.]

Accounting
officers of the
Treasury De-
partment to li-
quidate the
claims of the
state of Penn-
sylvania against
the U. S.

CHAP. LXXIX.—*An Act authorizing the payment of interest to the state of Pennsylvania.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the proper accounting officers of the Treasury Department be, and they are hereby, authorized and directed to liquidate and settle the claim of the state of Pennsylvania against the United States, for interest upon loans or moneys borrowed, and actually expended by her, for the use and benefit of the United States, during the late war with Great Britain.