

local wants of trade and navigation: And, fifth, whether there be any, and if any, what other facts of importance touching the subject.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That all such reports shall, as speedily as may be, be laid before the Secretary of the Treasury, and if such as to authorize the work without further legislation, he shall forthwith proceed with it, otherwise, such reports shall be laid before Congress at the next ensuing session; but in all cases where the person designated by the Secretary of the Treasury, under the second section of this act, does not report such preliminary examination as expedient, the provisions of this act shall without delay be carried into execution.

Report.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the salary of the keeper of the Minot's Ledge light shall hereafter be at the rate of one thousand dollars per annum, and the assistants, five hundred and fifty dollars per annum.

Salary of keeper of Minot's Ledge light and assistants.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That in case it should be impossible, in the opinion of the colonel of the topographical corps, to obtain a perfect title to the necessary land upon which to build the lighthouse heretofore ordered to be built at the mouth of the Calumet River, on Lake Michigan, said land shall be appraised by three disinterested persons under oath, and the lighthouse shall immediately be built, and the appraised value of said land shall be paid to any person who shall make to the United States what the Attorney-General shall consider a perfect title thereto.

Provision respecting the title to proposed site of lighthouse at mouth of the Calumet River.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That hereafter, in all new lighthouses, in all lighthouses requiring new lighting apparatus, and in all lighthouses as yet unsupplied with illuminating apparatus, the lens, or Fresnel system, shall be adopted, if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Treasury, the public interest will be subserved thereby.

The lens, or Fresnel system, may be adopted.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, & he is hereby, authorized and required to cause a board to be convened at as early a day as may be practicable after the passage of this act, to be composed of two officers of the navy, of high rank, two officers of engineers of the army, and such civil officer of high scientific attainments as may be under the orders, or at the disposition, of the treasury department, and a junior officer of the navy to act as secretary to said board, whose duty it shall be, under instructions from the treasury department, to inquire into the condition of the lighthouse establishment of the United States, and make a general detailed report and programme to guide legislation in extending and improving our present system of construction, illumination, inspection, and superintendence: *Provided*, That no additional compensation shall be allowed any person serving on said board.

Board to be convened to inquire into the condition of the lighthouse establishment, and to report.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the President be, and he is hereby, required to cause to be detailed from the engineer corps of the army, from time to time, such officers as may be necessary to superintend the construction and renovating lighthouses.

No extra pay therefor.

Engineers may be detailed for construction, &c., of lighthouses.

APPROVED, March 3, 1851.

CHAP. XXXVIII. — *An Act to amend the Acts regulating the Appraisalment of imported Merchandise, and for other Purposes.*

March 3, 1851.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That in all cases where there is or shall be imposed any ad valorem rate of duty on any goods, wares, or merchandise imported into the United States, it shall be the duty of the collector within whose district the same shall be im-

In assessing duties on imports, the market price of the country from

which the importation is made, at the period of exportation, with costs and charges, is to be taken.

ported or entered, to cause the actual market value or wholesale price thereof at the period of the exportation to the United States, in the principal markets of the country from which the same shall have been imported into the United States, to be appraised, estimated, and ascertained; and to such value or price shall be added all costs and charges, except insurance, and including in every case a charge for commissions at the usual rates, as the true value at the port where the same may be entered, upon which duties shall be assessed. (a)

By whom the certificate of appraisement is to be made.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the certificate of any one of the appraisers of the United States of the dutiable value of any imported merchandise required to be appraised, shall be deemed and taken to be the appraisement of such merchandise required by existing laws to be made by such appraisers. And where merchandise shall be entered at ports where there are no appraisers, the certificate of the revenue officer to whom is committed the estimating and collection of duties of the dutiable value of any merchandise required to be appraised, shall be deemed and taken to be the appraisement of such merchandise required by existing laws to be made by such revenue officer.

Four appraisers to be appointed. Salary.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, four appraisers of merchandise, to be allowed an annual salary each of two thousand five hundred dollars, together with their actual travelling expenses, to be regulated by the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall be employed in visiting such ports of entry in the United States, under the direction of the said Secretary, as may be deemed useful by him for the security of the revenue, and shall at such ports afford such aid and assistance in the appraisement of merchandise thereat as may be deemed necessary by the Secretary of the Treasury to protect and insure uniformity in the collection of the revenue from customs; and wherever practicable, in cases of appeal from the decision of United States appraisers, under the provisions of the seventeenth section of the tariff act of thirtieth August, eighteen hundred forty-two, the collector shall select one discreet and experienced merchant to be associated with one of the appraisers appointed under the provisions of this act, who together shall appraise the goods in question; and if they shall disagree, the collector shall decide between them; and the appraisement thus determined shall be final, and deemed and taken to be the true value of said goods, and the duties shall be levied thereon accordingly, any act of Congress to the contrary notwithstanding. (b)

Duties.

Appeal from appraisements. 1842, ch. 270.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall take effect on and after the first day of April next; and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Act to take effect April 1, 1851.

APPROVED, March 3, 1851.

March 3, 1851.

CHAP. XXXIX. — *An Act to amend the Act to change the Time of holding the Circuit and District Courts of the United States for the District of Ohio.* (c)

Terms of courts in Ohio.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the term of the Circuit and District Courts of the United States for the district of Ohio now required by law to commence on the third Tuesday of May in

(a) For provisions of previous acts respecting appraisements, see Stat. 1823, ch. 21; Stat. 1830, ch. 147; Stat. 1842, ch. 270, § 16, (vol. v. pp. 563, 564,) and Stat. 1846, ch. 74, § 8, and ch. 175, § 2.

(b) For previous provision, as to appeal, see Stat. 1842, ch. 270, § 17.

(c) See vol. ii. pp. 201, 420, 568; vol. iii. p. 544; vol. iv. pp. 18, 187, 399; vol. v. pp. 215, 438, 652, and Stat. 1846, ch. 26, and ch. 76.