

CHAP. 107.—An act to provide for the sale of desert lands in certain States and Territories—

March 3, 1877.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be lawful for any citizen of the United States, or any person of requisite age "who may be entitled to become a citizen, and who has filed his declaration to become such" and upon payment of twenty five cents per acre—to file a declaration under oath with the register and the receiver of the land district in which any desert land is situated, that he intends to reclaim a tract of desert land not exceeding one section, by conducting water upon the same, within the period of three years thereafter, *Provided however* that the right to the use of water by the person so conducting the same, on or to any tract of desert land of six hundred and forty acres shall depend upon bona fide prior appropriation: and such right shall not exceed the amount of water actually appropriated, and necessarily used for the purpose of irrigation and reclamation: and all surplus water over and above such actual appropriation and use, together with the water of all, lakes, rivers and other sources of water supply upon the public lands and not navigable, shall remain and be held free for the appropriation and use of the public for irrigation, mining and manufacturing purposes subject to existing rights. Said declaration shall describe particularly said section of land if surveyed, and, if unsurveyed, shall describe the same as nearly as possible without a survey. At any time within the period of three years after filing said declaration, upon making satisfactory proof to the register and receiver of the reclamation of said tract of land in the manner aforesaid, and upon the payment to the receiver of the additional sum of one dollar per acre for a tract of land not exceeding six hundred and forty acres to any one person, a patent for the same shall be issued to him. *Provided,* that no person shall be permitted to enter more than one tract of land and not to exceed six hundred and forty acres which shall be in compact form.

Desert lands may be purchased.

Declaration.

Right to use water.

Water on public lands to be free.

Contents of declaration.

Perfection of title.

Limit to quantity of land purchasable.

Desert lands defined.

SECTION 2. That all lands exclusive of timberlands and mineral lands which will not, without irrigation, produce some agricultural crop, shall be deemed desert lands, within the meaning of this act, which fact shall be ascertained by proof of two or more credible witnesses under oath, whose affidavits shall be filed in the land office in which said tract of land may be situated—

Localities in which act to apply.

SECTION 3. That this act shall only apply to and take effect in the States of California, Oregon and Nevada, and the Territories of Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming Arizona, New Mexico and Dakota, and the determination of what may be considered desert land shall be subject to the decision and regulation of the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Approved, March 3, 1877.

CHAP. 108.—An act in relation to the Hot Springs reservation in the State of Arkansas.

March 3, 1877.

Ante, p. 356.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That so much of section five of an act of June eleventh, eighteen hundred and seventy, in relation to the Hot Springs reservation of Arkansas, as provides for the appointment of a receiver by the court, be, and the same is hereby, repealed: *Provided,* That nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the right of the United States to collect and receive rents already due.

1870, ch. 126, 16 Stat., 149.

Law for receiver of Hot Springs, Ark., repealed. Rights reserved.

SEC. 2. That it shall be the duty of the President of the United States upon the passage of this act, to appoint three discreet, competent, and disinterested persons, who shall constitute a board of commissioners, any two of whom shall constitute a quorum, who are hereby authorized

Commissioners to lay out Hot Springs reservation.

to perform and discharge the duties specified by this act, and for that purpose shall meet at Hot Springs, in the State of Arkansas, within thirty days after their appointment, and shall, before entering upon the discharge of their duties, subscribe to the usual oath for civil officers, and shall, at their first meeting, organize by the election of one of their number as chairman of the board, having given ten days' notice of the time and place of meeting in some daily paper published at Hot Springs, which notice shall be continued during the entire session of said board of commissioners, and all the evidence herein provided to be taken by said board shall be taken at Hot Springs.

Place of meeting. SEC. 3. That it shall be the duty of said commissioners, after examination of the topography of the reservation, to lay out into convenient squares, blocks, lots, avenues, streets, and alleys, the lines of which shall correspond with the existing boundary lines of occupants of said reservation as near as may be consistent with the interests of the United States, the following-described lands, to wit: The south half of section twenty eight, the south half of section twenty-nine, all of sections thirty-two and thirty three, in township two south and range nineteen west; and the north half of section four, the north half of section five, in township three south and range nineteen west, situate in the county of Garland, and State of Arkansas, and known as the Hot Springs reservation.

Oath.

Organization.

Advertisement.

Evidence.

Manner of laying out reservation.

Land to be included.

Land including hot springs to be reserved.

Superintendent.

Special tax on water taken from springs.

Duty of commission.

Map of metes and bounds of claims.

Testimony.

Right of purchase.

Appraised value.

Time for filing claims.

Claims not to be considered.

**Powers of commission—
As to witnesses.**

As to obstructions.

SEC. 4. That before making any subdivision of said lands, as described in the preceding section, it shall be the duty of said board of commissioners, under the direction and subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, to designate a tract of land included in one boundary, sufficient in extent to include, and which shall include all the hot or warm springs situate on the lands aforesaid, to embrace, as near as may be, what is known as Hot Springs Mountain, and the same is hereby reserved from sale, and shall remain under the charge of a superintendent, to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided, however,* That nothing in this section shall prevent the Secretary of the Interior from fixing a special tax on water taken from said springs, sufficient to pay for the protection and necessary improvement of the same.

SEC. 5. That it shall be the duty of said commissioners to show by metes and bounds on the map herein provided for, the parcels or tracts of lands claimed by reason of improvements made thereon or occupied by each and every such claimant and occupant on said reservation; to hear any and all proof offered by such claimants and occupants and the United States in respect to said lands and in respect to the improvements thereon; and to finally determine the right of each claimant or occupant to purchase the same, or any portion thereof, at the appraised value, which shall be fixed by said commissioners: *Provided, however,* That such claimants and occupants shall file their claims, under the provisions of this act, before said commissioners within six calendar months after the first sitting of the said board of commissioners, or their claims shall be forever barred; and no claim shall be considered which has accrued since the twenty fourth day of April, eighteen hundred and seventy-six

SEC. 6. That the said commissioners shall have power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers touching the occupancy or improvements of or on said lands, or any other matter in any wise belonging or appertaining either to the said lands or the improvements thereon; shall have power to examine under oath all witnesses that may come before them, and all testimony shall be reduced to writing, and preserved as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 7. That said commissioners shall have power to remove, or cause to be removed, all buildings or obstructions upon the said Hot Springs reservation when the same may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, as also all obstructions to streets, alleys or roads, to be laid off, straightened or widened as herein provided for.

SEC. 8. That the commissioners shall have power to straighten or widen any of the present streets or alleys in the town of Hot Springs, and to lay off such additional streets, alleys, and roads in said Hot Springs reservation, or in the town, before the sale or disposition of any of the property herein mentioned, as the convenience of the public and the interest of the United States may require, and for that purpose may condemn all buildings that they may find necessary to condemn in order to straighten or widen said streets and alleys, or to lay off new streets, alleys, and roads, and also all buildings or improvement on the reservation herein made, and to fix the value on all property thus condemned.

As to streets, etc.

SEC. 9. That it shall be the duty of said commissioners, without delay, to file in the office of the Secretary of the Interior, the map and survey herein provided for, with the boundary-lines of each claim clearly marked thereon, and with each division and subdivision traced and numbered, accompanied by a schedule, showing the name of each claimant, and of each lot or parcel of land, the appraised value thereof, numbers to correspond with such claim upon the map; also all of the evidence taken by them respecting the claimants' possessory right of occupation to any portion of the Hot Springs reservation and their findings in each case; also their appraisal of each tract or parcel of land, and the improvements thereon; and it shall be the duty of said commissioners to issue a certificate to each claimant, setting forth the amount of land the holder is entitled to purchase, and the valuation fixed thereon, and also showing the character and the valuation fixed upon the improvements of said tract or parcel of land, and to issue a certificate or certificates to all persons whose improvements are condemned, as herein provided, showing the value of said improvements.

Report of commission.
Map.

Evidence and finding.

Appraised value.

Certificates to claimants.

SEC. 10 That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior, within thirty days after said commissioners file said report and map in his office, to instruct the United States land-officers of Little Rock (Arkansas) land district to allow said lands to be entered as hereinafter provided, and to cause a patent to issue therefor; and it shall be the duty of the land officers authorized to sell said lands to give twenty days public notice in the Little Rock and Hot Springs newspapers that said lands are subject to entry in accordance with the provisions of this act.

Lands may be entered and patented.

Public notice to be given.

SEC. 11. That any claimant or occupant, his heirs or legal representatives, in whose favor said commissioners have adjudicated, shall, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe, have the sole right to enter and pay for, at the price fixed by said commissioners, the amount of land the commissioners had adjudged that they were entitled to purchase, at any time within twelve months next after the land-officers give the public notice herein required.

Claimants to have right to enter and pay for lands.

Time allowed for purchase.

SEC. 12. That upon the failure of any claimant or occupant in whose favor the commissioners have adjudged to pay the valuation fixed upon said land within the time and in the manner herein prescribed, then said lands, together with all other lands that no one has an adjudicated right to purchase under this act, shall be sold, by direction of the Secretary of the Interior, to the highest bidder at public sale for not less than the appraised value thereof at the land office at Little Rock, after notice of such sale has been advertised three months in some newspaper in the town of Hot Springs and in such other papers as he may designate, said lands and improvements to be sold together; and the proceeds arising from the sale thereof shall be paid to the receiver of public moneys at the land-office in Little Rock, Arkansas.

On failure of claimant to purchase, property to be sold at auction.

Notice of sale.

Disposition of proceeds.

SEC. 13. That any claimant or occupant who does not desire to purchase the lands adjudicated to him or her at the valuation fixed by said commissioners shall have the right to remove any improvements made on said land, at his or her own cost, before the time fixed for the payment for said lands.

Improvements may be removed.

SEC. 14. That the money arising from the sale of the lands shall be paid into the Treasury in the same manner as other moneys arising

Disposition of proceeds of sale.

- Water-rents. from the sale of public lands, and held for the purpose herein specified and at the further disposal of Congress; and the money arising from water-rents shall be under the control of the Secretary of the Interior, and expended by him for the purposes hereinbefore stated, an account of which shall be annually rendered to Congress, showing the amount received, the amount expended, and the amount remaining on hand at the end of each fiscal year.
- Report to Congress. SEC. 15. That the United States marshal for the judicial district of Arkansas, in which the Hot Springs may be situated shall execute all processes required to be executed by this act.
- Marshal to execute processes. SEC. 16. That said commissioners shall hold their offices for the period of one year from the date of appointment, and shall have power to employ competent engineers to make the maps and surveys herein provided for, at a reasonable compensation; to employ a stenographer, who shall also act as clerk, at a compensation of not more than eight dollars per day, to rent an office and purchase the necessary stationery; and the compensation of said commissioners shall be ten dollars per day each, all of which shall be paid by the Secretary of the Interior upon the certified vouchers of said commissioners.
- Term of office of commissioners. SEC. 17. That the right of way be and the same is hereby, granted to the Hot Springs Railroad Company, a company duly incorporated and organized under the laws of the State of Arkansas, to construct, maintain, and operate its line of railroad upon, over, and across the Hot Springs reservation in the State of Arkansas, as follows:
- Employés. Commencing on the east line of the south half of section thirty three, in township two south of the base line, in range nineteen west of the fifth principal meridian, in the county of Garland, and State of Arkansas, at a point about six hundred feet from the southeast corner of said section; thence running up a ravine parallel to and south of the Benton wagon-road, westwardly through said section, to a point where the same will intersect with the Malvern stage-road at a point south of the grave-yard on said reservation.
- Compensation. SEC. 18. The right of way hereby granted shall consist of a strip of land fifty feet wide on each side of said railroad, measured from the centre line thereof, from the point on the east line of said section of land where said railroad enters the same to the terminus of the track of said road: *Provided*, That said railway company may purchase upon the same terms as individuals land for shops, depots, and other purposes, not exceeding twenty acres: *Provided, however*, That Congress may at any time alter, amend, or repeal this section.
- Hot Springs Railroad Company to have right of way. SEC. 19. That a suitable tract of land, not exceeding five acres shall be laid off by said commissioners, and the same is hereby granted to the county of Garland in the State of Arkansas as a site for the public building of said county: *Provided*, That the tract of land hereby granted shall not be taken from the land reserved herein for the use of the United States.
- Route of railway. Approved, March 3, 1877.
- Width of grant.
- Land for shops, etc.
- Proviso.
- Land for public buildings to Garland County.
- Proviso.

March 3, 1877. **CHAP. 109.**—An act making appropriations for the support of the Military Academy for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, and for other purposes.

Ante, p. 124.

Appropriations. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the support of the Military Academy for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight:

Military Academy. For pay of three professors, at three thousand five hundred dollars per annum each, ten thousand five hundred dollars.

Pay of professors and others. For pay of six professors at three thousand dollars per annum each, eighteen thousand dollars.