

False affidavit.

SEC. 2. That if any witness making such proof, or the said applicant making such affidavit or oath, swears falsely as to any material matter contained in said proof, affidavits, or oaths, the said false swearing being willful and corrupt, he shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and shall be liable to the same pains and penalties as if he had sworn falsely before the register.

Approved, March 3, 1877.

March 3, 1877.

CHAP. 123.—An act for the relief of settlers on the public lands under the pre-emption laws.

Pre-emption entries may be changed to homestead entries with benefit of time.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when any person who has made a settlement on the public lands under the pre-emption laws shall change his filing to that for a homestead entry, the time required to perfect his title under the homestead laws shall be computed from the date of his original settlement made under the pre-emption laws.

Approved, March 3, 1877.

March 3, 1877.

CHAP. 124.—An act to extend for two years the act establishing the Board of Commissioners of Claims and the acts relating thereto.

1871, ch. 116,
16 Stat., 524,
1872, ch. 156,
17 Stat., 97.

Southern claims commission continued.

Proviso.

No evidence to be received after May 10, 1878, except.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth sections of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, and for other purposes," approved March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-one, and the act entitled "An act to authorize the Commissioners of Claims to appoint special commissioners to take testimony, and for other purposes," approved May eleventh, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, be and the same are hereby, extended and continued in force for two years from the tenth day of March, eighteen hundred and seventy-seven: *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to extend the time for filing claims before said commission, or to enlarge its jurisdiction, or to authorize the filing of new claims.

SEC. 2. That the Commissioners of Claims shall not receive any evidence on behalf of any claimant or claimants, for the allowance of any claim or claims unless such evidence shall have been taken, presented and filed by the tenth day of March, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, except, in rebuttal of evidence introduced on behalf of the Government, and all claims wherein the evidence of the claimant or claimants, is not filed within the time herein limited, shall be deemed to be barred forever thereafter.

Approved, March 3, 1877.

March 3, 1877.

CHAP. 125.—An act to secure the rights of settlers upon certain railroad-lands, and to repeal the first five sections of an act entitled "An act granting lands to the State of Kansas to aid in the construction of the Kansas and Neosho Valley Railroad and its extension to Red River," approved July twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six.

1866, ch. 241,
14 Stat., 236,
Repealed in part.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That sections one, two, three, four, and five of the act entitled "An act granting lands to the State of Kansas to aid in the construction of the Kansas and Neosho Valley Railroad and its extension to Red River," approved July twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby instructed to issue no more patents to said railroad-company for the lands withdrawn from market, in consequence of the enactment of the sections of said act hereby repealed, and to withhold from delivery any patents not yet delivered for the same.

Patents not to be issued for lands withdrawn under sections repealed.

SEC. 3. That upon said Kansas and Neosho Valley Railroad Company, its successor or successors or assigns, filing with the Secretary of the Interior its acceptance of the terms, conditions, and impositions of this act, as hereinafter provided, and its execution and delivery of the deeds hereinafter specified, all of said lands so withdrawn and undisposed of shall be restored to market, by proclamation of the President of the United States, and opened to settlement and purchase under the homestead-laws of the United States only.

Lands withdrawn to be restored to market, when, etc.

SEC. 4. That said railroad-company, its successor or assigns, shall reconvey, by deed or deeds duly executed, all unsold lands patented to it, in pursuance of the sections hereby repealed, and shall pay into the Treasury of the United States the proceeds of all such lands sold and conveyed prior to the passage of this act; and that if said company shall have any uncompleted contracts for the sale of any portion of such lands, the same shall be forthwith canceled, if the contracting party or parties consent thereto in writing filed with the Secretary of the Interior; and if any portion of the purchase-money has been paid thereon, the same shall be refunded to the contracting party or parties.

Reconveyance by railroad company of lands and proceeds.

Contracts to be canceled.

SEC. 5. That the acceptance of said company, or its successor or assigns, of the terms, conditions, and impositions of this act, shall be signified in writing, under the corporate seal of said company, duly executed, pursuant to the direction of its board of directors first had and obtained, which acceptance shall be made within ninety days from the passage of this act. And the deed or deeds hereinbefore referred to shall be executed and delivered within six months from the passage of this act, and both deeds and acceptance shall be deposited with the Secretary of the Interior. And the payment of the money, and the cancellation of the contracts hereinbefore specified, shall also be made within a like period of six months from the date of the approval of this act.

Acceptance of this act by railroad company.

Time of reconveyance and repayment.

Approved, March 3, 1877.

CHAP. 126.—An act to amend an act entitled "An act granting the right of way through the public lands to the Denver and Rio Grande Railway Company," approved June eighth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two.

March 3, 1877.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That an act entitled "An act granting the right of way through the public lands to the Denver and Rio Grande Railway Company," approved June eighth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, be, and the same is hereby, amended by making the second proviso in said act read as follows, to wit:

1872, ch. 354,
17 Stat., 339,
Amended.

"*Provided,* That said company shall complete its railway as far south as Santa Fe within ten years of the passage of this act, and shall complete fifty miles additional south of said point in each year thereafter; and in default thereof the rights and privileges herein granted shall be rendered null and void so far as respects the unfinished portion of said road."

Time for completing Denver and Rio Grande Railway extended.

Approved, March 3, 1877.

CHAP. 127.—An act for the relief of certain settlers on the public lands.

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 homestead and pre-emption settlers on the public lands, or pre-emption settlers on Indian reservations, where crops were destroyed or seriously injured by grasshoppers in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-

Ante, pp. 54, 55, 59.

Certain settlers on public lands may be absent therefrom.