

STATUTE III.

Feb. 18, 1811.

Act of April 27, 1810, ch. 33. Distribution of the land laws.

How to be distributed.

CHAP. XX.—*An Act making a further distribution of such laws of the United States, as respect the Public Lands.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the copies of the laws prepared and printed under the authority of "An act providing for printing and distributing of such laws of the United States as respect the public lands," passed the twenty-seventh day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ten, not otherwise disposed of, shall be distributed in the manner following, that is to say: The President and Vice President of the United States, the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, the secretaries of the state, treasury, war and navy departments, the attorney-general, the comptroller and register of the treasury, the judges of the supreme and district courts of the United States, the governors and judges of the territories, the surveyor-general of the United States, and the surveyor of the lands of the United States south of Tennessee, shall each receive one copy; the clerks in each of the departments of state, treasury and war, employed on land business, five copies; the secretary of the Senate, to be placed on his table for the use of the Senate, five copies; the clerk of the House of Representatives, to be placed on his table, for the use of the House of Representatives, ten copies; two hundred and fifty copies shall be placed in the library, and remain there under the same regulations as the other laws of the United States; one hundred copies shall be deposited in the treasury department for the use of the land boards, and offices which may hereafter be established; and the remainder shall be placed in the library, and each member of Congress hereafter elected, shall, so long as any remain, exclusive of the two hundred and fifty copies before mentioned, be entitled to one copy at the commencement of that session of Congress next succeeding his election.

APPROVED, February 18, 1811.

STATUTE III.

Feb. 20, 1811.

CHAP. XXI.—*An Act to enable the people of the Territory of Orleans to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the Union, on an equal footing with the original states, and for other purposes.*(a)

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the inhabitants of all that part of the territory or country ceded under the name of Louisiana, by the treaty made at Paris on the thirtieth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and three, between the United States and France, contained within the following limits, that is to say: beginning at the mouth of the river Sabine, thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said river, including all islands to the thirty-second degree of latitude; thence due north, to the northernmost part of the thirty-third degree of north latitude; thence along the said parallel of latitude to the river Mississippi; thence down the said river to the river Iberville; and from thence along the middle of the said river and lakes Maurepas and Ponchartrain, to the gulf of Mexico; thence bounded by the said gulf to the place of beginning: including all islands within three leagues of the coast, be, and they are hereby authorized to form for themselves a constitution and state government, and to assume such name as they may deem proper, under the provisions and upon the conditions herein after mentioned.

The inhabitants of Louisiana within directed limits to be authorized to form a constitution and state.

Act of April 14, 1812, ch. 57.

Elective franchise, how regulated.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all free white male citizens of the United States, who shall have arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and resided within the said territory, at least one year previous to the day of election, and shall have paid a territorial, county, district or

(a) An act to enlarge the limits of the state of Louisiana, April 14, 1812, chap. 57.

parish tax: and all persons having in other respects the legal qualifications to vote for representatives in the general assembly of the said territory, be, and they are hereby authorized to choose representatives to form a convention, who shall be apportioned amongst the several counties, districts and parishes, within the said territory of Orleans, in such manner as the legislature of the said territory shall by law direct. The number of representatives shall not exceed sixty; and the elections for the representatives aforesaid shall take place on the third Monday in September next, and shall be conducted in the same manner as is now provided by the laws of the said territory for electing members for the House of Representatives.

Convention to meet at New Orleans.

The constitution to be republican and consistent with the constitution of the United States.

All right to waste and unappropriated lands to be disclaimed by an irrevocable ordinance.

Lands sold by Congress to be exempt from state taxes for five years.

Convention to send to Congress the act assenting to the adoption of the constitution of United States.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the members of the convention, when duly elected, be, and they are hereby authorized to meet at the city of New Orleans, on the first Monday of November next, which convention, when met, shall first determine, by a majority of the whole number elected, whether it be expedient or not, at that time, to form a constitution and state government, for the people within the said territory, and if it be determined to be expedient, then the convention shall in like manner declare, in behalf of the people of the said territory, that it adopts the constitution of the United States; whereupon the said convention shall be, and hereby is authorized to form a constitution and state government, for the people of the said territory: *Provided,* the constitution to be formed, in virtue of the authority herein given, shall be republican, and consistent with the constitution of the United States; that it shall contain the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty; that it shall secure to the citizen the trial by jury in all criminal cases, and the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*, conformably to the provisions of the constitution of the United States; and that after the admission of the said territory of Orleans as a state into the Union, the laws which such state may pass shall be promulgated, and its records of every description shall be preserved, and its judicial and legislative written proceedings conducted, in the language in which the laws and the judicial and legislative written proceedings of the United States are now published and conducted: *And provided also,* that the said convention shall provide by an ordinance, irrevocable without the consent of the United States, that the people inhabiting the said territory do agree and declare, that they for ever disclaim all right or title to the waste or unappropriated lands, lying within the said territory; and that the same shall be and remain at the sole and entire disposition of the United States; and, moreover, that each and every tract of land, sold by Congress, shall be and remain exempt from any tax, laid by the order or under the authority of the state, whether for state, county, township, parish or any other purpose whatever, for the term of five years from and after the respective days of the sales thereof; and that the lands, belonging to citizens of the United States, residing without the said state, shall never be taxed higher than the lands belonging to persons residing therein; and that no taxes shall be imposed on lands the property of the United States; and that the river Mississippi and the navigable rivers and waters leading into the same or into the gulf of Mexico, shall be common highways and for ever free, as well to the inhabitants of the said state as to other citizens of the United States, without any tax, duty, impost or toll therefor, imposed by the said state.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That in case the convention shall declare its assent, in behalf of the people of the said territory, to the adoption of the constitution of the United States, and shall form a constitution and state government for the people of the said territory of Orleans, the said convention, as soon thereafter as may be, is hereby required to cause to be transmitted to Congress the instrument, by which its assent to the constitution of the United States is thus given and

declared, and also a true and attested copy of such constitution or frame of state government, as shall be formed and provided by said convention, and if the same shall not be disapproved by Congress, at their next session after the receipt thereof, the said state shall be admitted into the Union, upon the same footing with the original states.

1812, ch. 50.

State to be admitted into the Union.

Reservation for roads, &amp;c.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That five per centum of the net proceeds of the sales of the lands of the United States, after the first day of January, shall be applied to laying out and constructing public roads and levees in the said state, as the legislature thereof may direct.

APPROVED, February 20, 1811.

STATUTE III.

CHAP. XXII.—*An Act making appropriations for the support of Government for the year one thousand eight hundred and eleven.*

Feb. 20, 1811.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That for the expenditure of the civil list in the present year, including the contingent expenses of the several departments and offices; for the compensation of the several loan officers and their clerks, and for books and stationery for the same; for the payment of annuities and grants; for the support of the mint establishment; for the expense of intercourse with foreign nations; for the support of lighthouses, beacons, buoys and public piers; for defraying the expenses of surveying the public lands; and for satisfying certain miscellaneous claims, the following sums be, and the same are hereby respectively appropriated, that is to say:

Specific appropriations.

For compensation granted by law to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, their officers and attendants, estimated for a session of four months and a half continuance, two hundred and one thousand four hundred and twenty-five dollars.

For the expense of firewood, stationery, printing and all other contingent expenses of the two houses of Congress, thirty-four thousand dollars.

For all contingent expenses of the library of Congress, and for the librarian's allowance for the year one thousand eight hundred and eleven, eight hundred dollars.

For repairing the roof and fitting up a room in the west side of the north wing of the capitol for the library of Congress, six hundred dollars.

For compensation to the President and Vice President of the United States, thirty thousand dollars.

For compensation to the Secretary of State, clerks and persons employed in that department, including the sum of one thousand four hundred and seventy-eight dollars in addition to the sum allowed by the act of the twenty-first of April, one thousand eight hundred and six, fourteen thousand and thirty-eight dollars.

1806, ch. 41.

For the incidental and contingent expenses of the said department, one thousand three hundred and fifty dollars.

For printing and distributing the laws of the third session of the eleventh Congress, and printing the laws in newspapers, five thousand five hundred dollars.

For compensation to the Secretary of the Treasury, clerks and persons employed in his office, including the sum of one thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars, for clerk hire, in addition to the sum allowed by the act of the twenty-first of April, one thousand eight hundred and six, sixteen thousand seven hundred dollars.

1806, ch. 41.

For expense of translating foreign languages, allowance to the person employed in transmitting passports and sea letters, and for stationery and printing in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, one thousand dollars.