

Act of Feb. 19, 1814, ch. 14. Further time allowed to purchasers of public lands.

Conditions.

the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ten, and prior to the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eleven, had purchased any tract or tracts of land of the United States, not exceeding in the whole six hundred and forty acres, at any of the land offices of the United States, and whose lands have not already been actually sold or reverted to the United States, for non-payment of part of the purchase money, shall be, and they hereby are allowed the further time of three years, from and after the expiration of the period already given by law for completing the payment of the purchase money aforesaid; which further time of three years shall be allowed only on the following conditions: first, all arrears of interest on the purchase money shall be paid on or before the expiration of the time for completing the payment of the purchase money according to former laws: *Provided*, That in all cases in which the time for completing the payment of the purchase money may have expired, or shall expire before the first day of June next, the interest may be paid on or before that day: second, the residue of the sum due on account of the principal of such purchase shall be paid, with interest thereon, in three equal annual payments, as follows, viz: one third of the said sum, with the interest due thereon, within one year; one third of the said sum, with the interest due thereon within two years, and the residue, with the interest due thereon, within three years after the expiration of the time for completing the payments on such purchases according to law. And in case of failure to pay the arrears of interest, or any of the three instalments of principal, with the accruing interest, at the time above-mentioned, the tract of land shall be forthwith advertised and offered for sale in the manner and on the terms directed by law, in case of lands not paid within the time limited by law, and shall revert to the United States in like manner, if the same is not sold at such sale.

APPROVED, February 4, 1815.

### STATUTE III.

Feb. 7, 1815.

CHAP. XXXV.—*An Act to alter and amend the several acts for establishing a Navy Department, by adding thereto a board of commissioners.* (a)

Act of March 3, 1815, ch. 92. Three officers of the navy to be appointed a board of commissioners for the navy. Their powers and duties.

Board made subordinate to Secretary of the Navy.

Board of commissioners to draw up regulations for

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint three officers of the navy, whose rank shall not be below a post captain, who shall constitute a board of commissioners for the navy of the United States; and shall have power to adopt such rules and regulations for the government of their meetings as they may judge expedient: and the board so constituted, shall be attached to the office of the Secretary of the Navy, and under his superintendence shall discharge all the ministerial duties of said office, relative to the procurement of naval stores and materials, and the construction, armament, equipment, and employment, of vessels of war, as well as all other matters connected with the naval establishment of the United States. And the said board shall appoint their own secretary, who shall receive in compensation for his services a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars per annum, who shall keep a fair record of their proceedings, subject at all times to the inspection of the President of the United States, and the Secretary of the Navy.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said board of commissioners, by and with the consent of the Secretary of the Navy, be, and are hereby authorized to prepare such rules and regulations, as shall be necessary for securing an uniformity in the several classes of vessels and

(a) See note to act of April 30, 1798, vol. i. 553. See act of Aug. 31, 1842, ch. 286, repealing this act, and organizing five bureaus attached to the Navy Department.

their equipments, and for repairing and refitting them, and for securing responsibility in the subordinate officers and agents: which regulations, when approved by the President of the United States, shall be respected and obeyed, until altered and revoked by the same authority; and the said rules and regulations thus prepared and approved, shall be laid before Congress at their next session. It shall also be the duty of said board, upon the requisition of the Secretary of the Navy, to furnish all the estimates of expenditure, which the several branches of the service may require, and such other information and statements as he may deem necessary.

securing uniformity in classes of vessels, &c.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the officer of the said board holding the oldest commission shall preside, and each commissioner shall be entitled to receive, in compensation for his services, three thousand five hundred dollars per annum in lieu of wages, rations, and other emoluments, as naval officers; and all letters and packets to and from the said commissioners, which relate to their official duties, shall be free from postage.

The officer holding the oldest commission to preside at the navy board.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act shall be construed to take from the Secretary of the Navy his control and direction of the naval forces of the United States, as now by law possessed.

This act not to derogate from the powers of the Secretary of the Navy.

APPROVED, February 7, 1815.

STATUTE III.

Feb. 8, 1815.

CHAP. XXXVIII.—*An Act for the better regulation of the Ordnance Department.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That from and after the passage of this act, the ordnance department shall consist of one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, two majors, ten captains, ten first lieutenants, ten second lieutenants, and ten third lieutenants.

Act of May 14, 1812, ch. 83. Ordnance department, how constituted.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the colonel or senior officer of the ordnance department is authorized to enlist for the service of that department, for five years, as many master armorers, master carriage makers, master blacksmiths, artificers, armorers, carriage makers, blacksmiths, and labourers, as the public service, in his judgment, under the directions of the Secretary for the Department of War, may require.

Colonel may enlist for the service of that department, master armorers, &c.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the colonel of the ordnance department to direct the inspection and proving of all pieces of ordnance, cannon balls, shot, shells, small arms, and side arms, and equipments, procured for the use of the armies of the United States; and to direct the construction of all cannon and carriages, and every implement and apparatus for ordnance, and all ammunition wagons, travelling forges, and artificer's wagons, the inspection and proving of powder, and the preparation of all kinds of ammunition and ordnance stores. And it shall also be the duty of the colonel or senior officer of the ordnance department, to furnish estimates, and under the direction of the Secretary for the Department of War, to make contracts and purchases for procuring the necessary supplies of arms, equipments, ordnance and ordnance stores.

And to direct the inspection and proof of ordnance, and to procure gun carriages and all needful apparatus.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the colonel of the ordnance department shall organize and attach to regiments, corps, or garrisons, such number of artificers, with proper tools, carriages and apparatus, under such regulations and restrictions relative to their government and number, as, in his judgment, with the approbation of the Secretary for the Department of War, may be considered necessary.

Proper number of artificers to be attached to regiments, &c.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the colonel of the ordnance department, or senior officer of that department of any district, shall execute all orders of the Secretary for the Department of War, and, in time of war, the orders of any general, or field officer, commanding any army,

Colonel of the ordnance to execute all orders of the Secretary of War.