

granted under the laws of the United States to the author or proprietor of any dramatic composition, designed or suited for public representation, shall be deemed and taken to confer upon the said author or proprietor, his heirs or assigns, along with the sole right to print and publish the said composition, the sole right also to act, perform, or represent the same, or cause it to be acted, performed, or represented, on any stage or public place during the whole period for which the copyright is obtained; and any manager, actor, or other person acting, performing, or representing the said composition, without or against the consent of the said author or proprietor, his heirs or assigns, shall be liable for damages to be sued for and recovered by action on the case or other equivalent remedy, with costs of suit in any court of the United States, such damages in all cases to be rated and assessed at such sum not less than one hundred dollars for the first, and fifty dollars for every subsequent performance, as to the court having cognizance thereof shall appear to be just: *Provided, nevertheless,* That nothing herein enacted shall impair any right to act, perform, or represent a dramatic composition as aforesaid, which right may have been acquired, or shall in future be acquired by any manager, actor, or other person previous to the securing of the copyright for the said composition, or to restrict in any way the right of such author to process in equity in any court of the United States for the better and further enforcement of his rights.

Copyright of Dramatic compositions shall extend to prevent unauthorized performances thereof.

Penalty for violation.

Proviso as to rights acquired before copyright is taken out.

APPROVED, August 18, 1856.

CHAP. CLXX.—*An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act requiring Foreign Regulations of Commerce to be laid annually before Congress," approved August sixteenth, eighteen hundred and forty-two, and for other Purposes.*

Aug. 18, 1856.
1842, ch. 181.
Vol. v. p. 507.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in addition to the changes and modifications in the commercial systems of other nations, now required by said act, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to lay before Congress annually, within sixty days after the commencement of each ordinary session, as a part of said report, all other commercial information communicated to the State Department by consular and diplomatic agents of this government abroad, or contained in the official publications of other governments, which he shall deem sufficiently important.

Commercial information communicated by consuls, &c., to be reported to Congress.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That to enable the Secretary of State to make said report, it is hereby declared to be the duty of consuls and commercial agents of the United States in foreign countries, to procure and transmit to the Department of State authentic commercial information respecting said countries, of such character, and in such manner and form, and at such times, as said department may, from time to time prescribe; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State in said annual report, to specify the names of any of said officers who may have been remiss in their duty enjoined by this act.

Consuls, &c., bound to procure such information.
1856, ch. 127,
§ 22.
Ante, p. 60.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary of State be and is hereby authorized and required to appoint one clerk, who shall have charge of statistics in said department, and shall be called "Superintendent of Statistics," and shall receive a salary of two thousand dollars per annum, and shall be allowed as an assistant, one clerk of the third class, which the Secretary of State is hereby authorized and required to appoint.

Superintendent of Statistics.

Assistant.

APPROVED, August 18, 1856.

CHAP. CLXXI.—*An Act making an Appropriation for the Survey of the Southern Boundary Line of Kansas Territory.*

Aug. 18, 1856.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That to enable the President

Appropriation for survey of

southern boundary of Kansas.

1856, ch. 59.
Ante, p. 27.

of the United States to execute the act entitled "An act to authorize the President of the United States to cause the southern boundary line of Kansas Territory to be surveyed and marked," the sum of thirty-five thousand four hundred dollars is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury.

APPROVED, August 18, 1856.

Aug. 18, 1856.

CHAP. CLXXII.—*An Act to continue the Land Offices at Vincennes, Indiana, and to ascertain and adjust the Titles to certain Lands in the States of Indiana and Illinois, formerly included within the Vincennes Land District.*

Commissioners on certain land claims in Indiana and Illinois.

1791, ch. 27.
Vol. i. p. 221.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the register and receiver of the land-offices at Vincennes, to be appointed, together with a fit and proper person learned in the law, and a citizen of Indiana, to be appointed by the President of the United States, are hereby constituted commissioners to ascertain and adjust the title of any claimant to any tract of land, or any part or subdivision thereof, granted by the resolution of Congress of the twenty-ninth of August, seventeen hundred and ninety-one, entitled "An act for granting lands to the inhabitants and settlers at Vincennes, and the Illinois country, in the territory northwest of the Ohio, and for confirming them in their possessions," and the several acts in aid of and supplementary thereto.

Claims to be filed in three months.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That every such claimant to any tract of land so granted, or any part or subdivision thereof, shall, within three months after the publication of the notice herein provided for, file his claim in writing with the said register, in which he shall specifically set forth such facts as shall be required in the instructions of the Commissioner of the General Land-Office: *Provided,* That in any case in which good cause may be shown why the claim was not filed within the period stipulated, such claim may be presented and acted upon at any time before the expiration of the commission.

Proviso.

Notice to file claim.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That such register, upon the receipt of such instructions, shall give notice in the several newspapers of general circulation within said district and in the vicinity of said lands, by publication, of his readiness to receive applications of claimants, to which notice shall be appended the instructions of the Commissioner and a copy of this act.

Meeting of commissioners.

Their powers.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That said commissioners shall meet immediately after the time allowed for filing such claims, and shall hold their sessions at the town of Vincennes. They shall have power to issue subpoenas, and compel the attendance of witnesses, administer all necessary oaths, and to hear and decide, in a summary manner, all matters respecting such claims. Minutes of the proceedings, decisions, meetings, and adjournments of the board, shall be regularly entered in a book kept for that purpose.

What claims shall be confirmed.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That every claimant to any tract of land so granted, or any subdivision thereof, who can produce to such commissioner a regular chain of title from the original confirmee or donee to himself, or who can show to their satisfaction a continuous and connected possession in himself, and those under whom he claims, for a period of twenty years or more next preceding the filing of his claim, or can show such a claim or title as would, in the courts of Indiana, bar an action of ejectment, such claimant shall be confirmed in his title.

Transcript of decisions.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That said commissioners shall, in one year from the date of organizing said commission under this act, or sooner, if the cases on their docket are all disposed of, transmit to the Commissioner of the General Land-Office a transcript of their decisions in favor of claimants, which shall contain a fair statement of the evidence