

proceeds of any sale of the property, final or interlocutory, in the custody of the court. In case of a decree of restitution upon payment of costs, where no sale has been made, such charges and expenses shall constitute part of said costs to be paid by the claimant.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the prize commissioners, and also the district attorney, acting for the United States, and the counsel for the captors, shall be entitled to receive a just and suitable compensation for their several and respective services in each prize case or proceeding; and the same shall be adjusted and determined by the court upon due consideration of the facts and circumstances of each case and of the services actually rendered therein; and the same, when so adjusted, shall, in case of final condemnation or restitution on payment of costs, be paid out of the proceeds of the prize property in the custody of the court, or when no sale has been made, in whole or in part, as the court may direct by the claimant.

Pay of prize commissioners and of district attorney,

how determined and paid.

Post, p. 760.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That whensoever a final decree of condemnation of property captured as prize shall have been made, unless an interlocutory sale has been made as hereinbefore provided for, the property shall be sold by the United States marshal pursuant to the practice and proceedings in admiralty, and the gross proceeds of such sale shall be forthwith deposited in court; and thereupon the prize commissioners shall proceed, under the direction of the court, to take the requisite evidence, and report the same to the court, to the end that a final decree shall be made determining what public ships of the United States are entitled to share in the prize, and whether the prize was of superior, equal, or inferior force to the vessel or vessels making the capture, and within thirty days after the entry of the same the clerk of the court shall transmit to the Treasury of the United States the moneys so deposited in court, together with a certified copy of the said decree, after deducting from said moneys the costs of court and the charges and expenses hereinbefore provided for.

Proceedings upon final decree of condemnation.

Sale,—proceeds of sale.

Shares of public vessels.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the provisions of this act shall apply as well to cases now pending as to all future cases of maritime captures, and to captures and seizures made under the laws for the abolition of the slave trade; and all laws and parts of laws inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

To what cases this act shall apply.

APPROVED, March 25, 1862.

CHAP. LI.—*An Act in Addition to an Act to refund and remit the Duties on Arms imported by States, approved July ten, eighteen hundred and sixty-one.* April 2, 1862.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the authority given to the Secretary of the Treasury to refund and remit the duties and imposts on all arms imported into the United States by or for the account of any State as provided in the act to which this is an addition, shall extend to arms for which orders or contracts were made prior to the first day of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-two: *Provided*, That said Secretary shall have satisfactory proofs exhibited to him that the said arms were actually purchased in a foreign country for account of a State, and that the price paid for the same by the State was only the first cost, and the usual and customary charges attending the purchase and importation of the same, exclusive of duty.

Duties on arms, &c., extension of time for remitting.

Proviso.

APPROVED, April 2, 1862.

CHAP. LIJ.—*An Act to provide for the equitable Settlement of the Accounts of the Officers and Crews of the Frigate Congress and other Vessels.* April 2, 1862.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the proper accounting officers

Accounts of officers, &c., of the Congress and other vessels to be settled equitably.

Post, p. 818.

Certain sailors, &c., to receive not over \$60 each for loss of clothing, &c.

of the Treasury be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to settle, upon the principles of justice and equity, the accounts of the officers, sailors, marines, and crews of the United States frigate Congress, the sloop Cumberland, and of any other vessel or vessels-of-war, the books of which were lost or destroyed in consequence of the naval engagements at Hampton Roads on the eighth and ninth of March, anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he is hereby, authorized to furnish to the sailors, marines, and crews of any of the vessels engaged in the naval actions in the foregoing section mentioned, whose bedding, clothing, or other property was lost or destroyed therein, with an amount sufficient to cover their losses, and not exceeding sixty dollars to each man, to be paid in kind or in money, at the discretion of the flag officer of the North Atlantic Squadron.

APPROVED, April 2, 1862.

April 2, 1862.

CHAP. LIII. — *An Act to prohibit the Allowance or Payment of Pensions to the Children of Officers and Soldiers of the War of the Revolution.*

Claims for certain pensions to children, &c., of persons serving during the Revolution prohibited.

*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 no claim for a pension, or for an increase of pension, shall be allowed in favor of the children or other descendants of any person who served in the war of the Revolution, or of the widow of such person, when such person or his widow died without having established a claim to a pension.

APPROVED, April 2, 1862.

April 16, 1862.

CHAP. LIV. — *An Act for the Release of certain Persons held to Service or Labor in the District of Columbia.*

1862, ch. 155.

Post, p. 538.

Slavery in the District of Columbia abolished.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That all persons held to service or labor within the District of Columbia by reason of African descent are hereby discharged and freed of and from all claim to such service or labor; and from and after the passage of this act neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for crime, whereof the party shall be duly convicted, shall hereafter exist in said District.

Loyal persons may petition commissioners for remuneration, &c.

Petitions to set forth, &c.,

to be under oath.

Post, p. 538.

Oath not to be evidence, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all persons loyal to the United States, holding claims to service or labor against persons discharged therefrom by this act, may, within ninety days from the passage thereof, but not thereafter, present to the commissioners hereinafter mentioned their respective statements or petitions in writing, verified by oath or affirmation, setting forth the names, ages, and personal description of such persons, the manner in which said petitioners acquired such claim, and any facts touching the value thereof, and declaring his allegiance to the Government of the United States, and that he has not borne arms against the United States during the present rebellion, nor in any way given aid or comfort thereto: *Provided*, That the oath of the party to the petition shall not be evidence of the facts therein stated.

Three commissioners to be appointed.

Their powers and duties.

Apportionment not to exceed what.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint three commissioners, residents of the District of Columbia, any two of whom shall have power to act, who shall receive the petitions above mentioned, and who shall investigate and determine the validity and value of the claims therein presented, as aforesaid, and appraise and apportion, under the proviso hereto annexed, the value in money of the several claims by them found to be valid: *Provided, however*, That the entire sum so appraised and apportioned shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount equal to