

States that may be thereon during the time that the United States shall be or remain the owner thereof

APPROVED, March 3, 1873.

March 3, 1873.

CHAP. CCXCVI. — *An Act to provide for the Purchase, by the Secretary of War, of Lands for the United States in the State of Texas, for the Sites of Forts and Military Posts.*

Lands in Texas may be purchased for sites for forts, &c., and at what price.

No contract to be completed or money paid until, &c.

United States not bound to purchase until, &c.

This act limited to three years.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be authorized to purchase, at a fair price, to be ascertained by a board of three officers to be appointed by him, whose report shall be subject to the approval or rejection of the President and the confirmation thereof by Congress, such lands in the State of Texas as may be necessary for the use of the United States for forts and military posts. The report of the board shall be made through the commanders of the department and military division, and subject to their approval or disapproval: *Provided,* That the contract for any one of the said tracts of land shall not be completed, nor any of the purchase-money paid, until the Attorney-General of the United States shall have given his written opinion in favor of the validity of the title of said land: *And provided further,* That the legislature of Texas will, at its next session, pass an act ceding exclusive jurisdiction over the said site or sites to the United States, and forever exempting the property from taxation.

SEC. 2. That nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize the Secretary of War to bind the government of the United States to comply with any contract for any of said lands, or to be held by the arbitration or adjudication of any of the courts of the State of Texas as to the price thereof and the terms of purchase until the aforesaid board shall have recommended the same and the President shall have approved of said purchase and Congress shall have confirmed the same: *Provided,* That all authority exercised under this act shall cease at the expiration of three years from passage hereof.

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CHAP. CCXCVII. — *An Act authorizing the Award to the Vincennes University of certain vacant and abandoned Lands in Knox County, Indiana.*

Preamble.

Whereas, it is alleged that there are certain parcels of abandoned lands in Knox county, Indiana, which are covered by old Vincennes donation claims, which have become abandoned and to which there is no subsisting confirmation or settlement by individuals as owners under confirmation: Therefore,

Patent to issue to Vincennes University for land awarded to it by decree of court.

Proceedings to obtain the decree, and at whose cost.

Patent, &c., not to affect ad-

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall and may be lawful for the Vincennes University, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Indiana, to file in the United States district court for the district of Indiana a petition descriptive of such abandoned and unclaimed donations in Knox county of that State, accompanied by such testimony as may be relied upon in support of the said alleged abandonment, with evidence that such list has been published for a period of at least three months in Knox county and calling on all parties to show cause, if such exist, why such tracts or parcels of land should not be declared vacant; and thereafter in such cases as the said court shall find the tracts to be abandoned and not claimed by any individuals under any confirmation, or otherwise, it shall have power to render a decree accordingly, and upon such decree being deposited in the general land-office, with a patent certificate from the register of the land-office at Indianapolis, Indiana, a patent shall issue to the said Vincennes University for the parcels of land so decreed as abandoned and awarded to said university: *Provided,* That all proceedings in the premises shall be at the cost of said university, and that

the patents so issued shall operate only as a quit-claim on the part of the United States, and shall not affect the valid adverse rights of any person should such hereafter be found to exist; and such patents and decrees shall have no effect upon or in respect to such adverse rights.

verse rights, but only to quit-claim, &c.

APPROVED, March 3, 1873.

CHAP. CCXCVIII. — *An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Sale of certain public Property," approved June tenth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two.* March 3, 1873.
1872, ch. 423.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That nothing contained in the first section of the act entitled "An act to authorize the sale of certain public property," approved June tenth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, shall be so construed as to prevent the Secretary of War from withdrawing any of the property from sale in cases where, in his judgment, the highest bid offered is insufficient or unsatisfactory.

Ante, p. 380.

Secretary of War may withdraw arsenals from auction sale when the highest bid is unsatisfactory.

SEC. 2. That any of the said property withdrawn from sale under this act may be again offered, either at public sale or by inviting proposals, after six days' consecutive notice, fifteen days before the day of sale, in the newspapers mentioned in the act of which this is an amendment.

Property withdrawn may be again offered, and how.

SEC. 3. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War to appoint a board of three army officers, which board shall appraise each piece or parcel of land, with the buildings thereon, before the same is offered for sale, and no sale shall be made at a price less than two-thirds of the appraised value.

Land to be appraised and not to be sold for less than two-thirds of appraised value.

APPROVED, March 3, 1873.

CHAP. CCXCIX. — *An Act to aid in the Erection of a Monument to the Memory of Major-General George H. Thomas.* March 3, 1873.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed to deliver to the Society of the Army of the Cumberland, eighty-eight pieces of condemned bronze cannon, if the same can be spared without serious detriment to the government, to aid in the erection of an equestrian statue to the memory of Major-General George H. Thomas.

Bronze cannon for equestrian statue of Major-General Thomas.

APPROVED, March 3, 1873.

CHAP. CCC. — *An Act to change the Name of Schooner "Andrew Stewart" and Steamer "Sleepy Hollow."* March 3, 1873.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and is hereby, authorized and directed to change the name of the schooner "Andrew Stewart" to "Barnett Jones" and the steamer "Sleepy Hollow" to that of "Long Branch" and grant new registers to the same.

Name of schooner "Andrew Stewart" and steamer "Sleepy Hollow" changed.

APPROVED, March 3, 1873.

CHAP. CCCI. — *An Act authorizing the Transfer of Safes from the War Department to the Post-office Department for Use in the Transportation of registered Mails.* March 3, 1873.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized to transfer such safes, or paymasters' chests, as may be on hand in his department, to the Post-office Department for use in the transportation of registered mails, with a view to promote the security of such mails.

Certain safes and paymasters chests transferred from the War Department to that of the Post-office.

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