

Aug. 6, 1856.

1855, ch. 122.

CHAP. LXXXI.—*An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to establish a Court for the Investigation of Claims against the United States," approved February twenty-fourth, eighteen hundred and fifty-five.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That any two of the Judges of the Court of Claims, authorized by the act to which this is an amendment, approved the twenty-fourth day of February, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, shall constitute a quorum, and may hold a court for the transaction of business, and the court may appoint commissioners to take testimony in the manner prescribed in the said act.

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Assistant solicitor.

Oath.

Salary.

Solicitor may appoint a deputy.

Clerk to disburse contingent fund.

Bond.

His accounts.

Salary of clerk and assistant clerk.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That an assistant solicitor shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, whose duty it shall be to aid the solicitor in the performance of the duties mentioned in the said act, and shall take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and discharge faithfully the duties of his office, and he shall receive a salary of three thousand five hundred dollars per annum, and shall hold his office for a period of four years, unless sooner removed by the President. And the solicitor of the United States, mentioned in the act to which this is an amendment, shall have power, and he is hereby authorized to employ a deputy, who shall receive a salary of two thousand five hundred dollars per annum, and whose duty it shall be to aid the said solicitor in the performance of the duties mentioned in said act, in such way as the said solicitor shall direct.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the clerk of the said court shall be, and he is hereby authorized to disburse, under the direction of the said court, the contingent fund which may hereafter be appropriated from time to time for the use of the said court: *Provided,* he shall first give bond in such an amount and in such form, and with such security, as shall be approved by the Secretary of the Treasury: *And, provided further,* That his accounts shall be settled by the proper accounting officers of the treasury in the same way as the accounts of other disbursing agents of the government are now settled. And from and after the first day of April one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, the salary of the said clerk shall be three thousand dollars per annum, and the salary of the assistant clerk shall be two thousand dollars per annum.

APPROVED, August 6, 1856.

Aug. 7, 1856.

CHAP. LXXXII.—*An Act to alter and amend "An Act to appropriate Money to remove Obstructions in the Savannah River, below the City of Savannah, in the State of Georgia," approved March third, eighteen hundred and fifty-five.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the balance of the unexpended appropriation made by the act of third March, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, "for removing certain obstructions in the Savannah River," may be, and is hereby authorized to be applied, under the direction of the Secretary of War, to remove the bars, shoals, banks, and other impediments in said river, caused by said obstructions, as proposed in the project of the commissioners, approved by the War Department in February, eighteen hundred and fifty-three.

APPROVED, August 7, 1856.

Aug. 11, 1856.

CHAP. LXXXIII.—*An Act granting Public Lands in alternate Sections to the State of Mississippi to aid in the Construction of Railroads in said State, and for other Purposes.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That there be, and is hereby, granted to the State of Mississippi, for the purpose of aiding in the construction of railroads from Jackson to the line between the State of Mis-

Grant of land to Mississippi for railroads.

Mississippi and the State of Alabama; from Tuscaloosa to the Mobile railroad within Mississippi; and from Brandon to the Gulf of Mexico, every alternate section of land designated by even numbers; for six sections in width on each side of each of said roads. But in case it shall appear that the United States have, when the lines or routes of said roads are definitely fixed, sold any sections or any parts thereof granted as aforesaid, or that the right of preëmption has attached to the same, then it shall be lawful for any agent or agents, to be appointed by the governor of said State, to select, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, from the lands of the United States nearest to the tiers of sections above specified, so much land in alternate sections or parts of sections as shall be equal to such lands as the United States shall have sold or otherwise appropriated, or to which the right of preëmption has attached as aforesaid; which lands (thus selected in lieu of those sold, and to which preëmption rights have attached as aforesaid, together with the sections and parts of sections designated by even numbers as aforesaid, and appropriated as aforesaid) shall be held by the said State for the use and purpose aforesaid: *Provided*, That the lands to be so located shall in no case be further than fifteen miles from the lines of said roads, and selected for, and on account of each of said roads: *Provided further*, That the lands hereby granted shall be exclusively applied in the construction of that road for and on account of which said lands are hereby granted, and shall be disposed of only as the work progresses, and the same shall be applied to no other purpose whatsoever: *And provided further*, That any and all lands heretofore reserved to the United States by any act of Congress, or in any other manner, by competent authority, for the purpose of aiding in any object of internal improvement, or for any other purpose whatsoever, be and the same are hereby reserved to the United States from the operation of this act, except so far as it may be found necessary to locate the routes of said railroads through such reserved lands, in which case, the right of way only shall be granted, subject to the approval of the President of the United States.

Grant in lieu of sections sold or preëmpted.

Application of said lands.

Act not to apply (except as to right of way) to reserved lands.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the sections and parts of sections of land which, by such grant, shall remain to the United States, within six miles on each side of said roads, shall not be sold for less than double the minimum price of the public lands when sold; nor shall any of the said lands become subject to private entry until the same have been first offered at public sale at the increased price.

Price of alternate sections doubled.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said lands hereby granted to the said State, shall be subject to the disposal of the legislature thereof, for the purpose aforesaid and no other; and the said railroads shall be and remain public highways for the use of the government of the United States, free from toll or other charge upon the transportation of any property or troops of the United States.

Disposal of said lands.

Railroads to be a public highway for government.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the lands hereby granted to the said State shall be disposed of by said State only in manner following, that is to say: That a quantity of land not exceeding one hundred and twenty sections for each of said roads, and included within a continuous length of twenty miles of each of said roads, may be sold; and when the governor of said State shall certify to the Secretary of the Interior that any continuous twenty miles of either of said roads is completed, then another like quantity of land hereby granted, not exceeding one hundred and twenty sections for such road may be sold; and so from time to time until said roads are completed; and if said roads are not completed within ten years no further sales shall be made, and the lands unsold shall revert to the United States.

Disposal of said lands.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the United States mail shall be transported over said railroads, under the direction of the Post-Office Department, at such price as Congress may, by law, direct: *Provided*,

Transportation of mails.

That until such price is fixed by law, the Postmaster-General shall have the power to determine the same.

Similar grant for a railroad from Mobile to New Orleans.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That a like grant to the same extent, and on the same terms and conditions in all respects, is hereby made to aid in constructing a railroad from the city of Mobile to New Orleans, such grant to be made to the several States through which said road shall pass, so far as said road is within their respective limits.

APPROVED, August 11, 1856.

Aug. 11, 1856. CHAP. LXXXIV.—*An Act to amend the Charter of Georgetown in the District of Columbia.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Corporation of Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, shall have full power and authority to lay and impose the present year and annually thereafter, a school tax upon every free white male citizen, of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, of one dollar per annum; said tax to be levied and collected under such regulations as the said corporation may prescribe.

Poll tax authorized in Georgetown, for schools.

Qualifications for electors in Georgetown.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the passage of this act, every free white male citizen of the United States, who shall have attained the age of twenty one years, and shall have resided within the corporate limits of Georgetown, in the District aforesaid, one year immediately preceding the day of election, and shall have been returned on the books of the corporation during the year ending on the thirty-first day of December next preceding the day of election, as subject to a school tax for that year, (except persons *non compos mentis*, vagrants, paupers, and persons who shall have been convicted of any infamous crime,) and who shall have paid the school taxes due from him, shall be entitled to vote for mayor, members of the board of aldermen and board of common council, and for every officer authorized to be elected at any election under the acts of said corporation: *Provided*, That if, during the year ending on the thirty-first day of December next preceding the day of the first election after the passage of this act, no person shall have been returned on the books of the said corporation as subject to a school tax, then all persons who shall have been returned on the books of the said corporation as subject to a school tax before the day of the said first election, and who shall in all other respects be qualified under this act to vote, and who shall have paid the said school tax, shall be entitled to vote at the said first election after the passage of this act; and if any person shall buy or sell a vote, or shall vote more than once at any corporation election, held in pursuance of law, or shall give or receive any consideration therefor in money, goods, or any other thing of value, or shall promise any valuable consideration, or vote in consideration of such promise, he shall be disqualified forever thereafter from voting or holding any office under said corporation; and on complaint thereof to the attorney of the United States for the District of Columbia, it shall be the duty of said attorney to proceed against said offender or offenders by indictment and trial, as in other criminal cases; and if found guilty it shall be the duty of the court to sentence him to pay a fine of not less than ten dollars, and to imprisonment not more than two months, nor less than ten days.

Penalties for buying or selling votes, or violating election laws.

Evidence of elections to be furnished on demand.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the clerk of said corporation, on the presentation of the corporation tax collector's receipt showing that the applicant has paid his school tax for that year, to enter the name of such school tax payer on the books of said corporation, and to furnish the judges of elections to be held under the laws of said corporation at each precinct, before or on the morning of any election, before the hour for opening the polls, with a list of the names of all persons who shall have paid their school taxes for that year.