

TITLE XXVII.

THE FREEDMEN.

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May invest the fund, and for what purpose.

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3 March, 1865, Res. No. 29, v. 13, p. 571.

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10 June, 1872, c. 415, s. 1, v. 17, p. 366.

3 March, 1871, c. 114, v. 16, p. 506.

SEC. 2032. All laws and parts of laws pertaining to the collection and payment of bounty, prize-money, and other legitimate claims of colored soldiers, sailors, and marines, or their heirs, shall remain in force until otherwise ordered by Congress.

SEC. 2033. The Secretary of War is authorized to carry into effect all laws and parts of laws referred to in the preceding section, and to this end he may employ such clerical force as he deems necessary.

SEC. 2034. Where accounts have been rendered for necessary expenditures incurred for refugees or freedmen, under the sanction of the proper officers, but which cannot be settled for want of specific appropriations, the same may be paid out of the fund for the relief of refugees and freedmen, on the approval of the Secretary War.

SEC. 2035. The Secretary of War is constituted the lawful custodian of a retained bounty fund, which has been derived from a portion of the State bounties of certain colored soldiers enlisted in Virginia and North Carolina, during the years 1864 and 1865, and which, by virtue of General Orders No. 90, Department of Virginia and North Carolina, was held by the Superintendent of Freedmen's Affairs, but was turned over to the Bureau upon its organization; and the Secretary of War shall hold the fund as trustee for the benefit of such colored soldiers or their legal representatives, to whom the same shall be paid upon their application or discovery.

SEC. 2036. The Secretary of War is empowered to invest the fund, or any portion thereof, in bonds of the United States, for the exclusive benefit of such colored soldiers or their legal representatives; but a sufficient amount of the same in cash may be retained uninvested to meet all lawful claims thereupon that will probably be presented for payment.

SEC. 2037. In determining who is the wife or child of any colored soldier, within the meaning of this Title, evidence that the soldier and the woman claimed to be his wife cohabited or associated as husband and wife, and so continued to cohabit or associate at the time of enlistment, or evidence that a form of marriage, whether such marriage was authorized or recognized by law or not, was entered into by them, and that the parties thereafter lived together as husband and wife, and so continued to live together at the time of the enlistment, shall be deemed sufficient proof of marriage; and the children born of any such marriage shall be taken to be the children embraced within the provisions of this Title, whether such marriage was or was not dissolved at the time of the enlistment.

SEC. 2038. The Freedmen's Hospital and Asylum in the District of Columbia is, until otherwise ordered by Congress, continued under the control and supervision of the Secretary of War, who shall make all estimates, pass all accounts, and be responsible to the Treasury for all expenditures; but no part of any appropriation shall be used in support of, or to pay the expenses on account of, any person hereafter to be admitted to such Hospital and Asylum, unless persons removed thither from some other Government hospital.