

March 3, 1875.

CHAP. 139.—An act to enable the people of Colorado to form a constitution and State government, and for the admission of the said State into the Union on an equal footing with the original States.

Territory of Colorado made a State.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the inhabitants of the Territory of Colorado included in the boundaries hereinafter designated be, and they are hereby, authorized to form for themselves, out of said Territory, a State government, with the name of the State of Colorado; which State, when formed, shall be admitted into the Union upon an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatsoever, as hereinafter provided.

Boundaries.

SEC. 2. That the said State of Colorado shall consist of all the territory included within the following boundaries, to wit: Commencing on the thirty-seventh parallel of north latitude where the twenty-fifth meridian of longitude west from Washington crosses the same; thence north, on said meridian, to the forty-first parallel of north latitude; thence along said parallel west to the thirty-second meridian of longitude west from Washington; thence south on said meridian, to the thirty-seventh parallel of north latitude; thence along said thirty-seventh parallel of north latitude, to the place of beginning.

Who may vote at first election.

SEC. 3. That all persons qualified by law to vote for representatives to the general assembly of said Territory, at the date of the passage of this act, shall be qualified to be elected, and they are hereby authorized to vote for and choose representatives to form a convention under such rules and regulations as the governor of said Territory, the chief justice, and the United States attorney thereof may prescribe; and also to vote upon the acceptance or rejection of such constitution as may be formed by said convention, under such rules and regulations as said convention may prescribe; and the aforesaid representatives to form the aforesaid convention shall be apportioned among the several counties in said Territory in proportion to the vote polled in each of said counties at the last general election as near as may be; and said apportionment shall be made for said Territory by the governor, United States district attorney, and chief justice thereof, or any two of them; and the governor of said Territory shall, by proclamation, order an election of the representatives aforesaid to be held throughout the Territory at such time as shall be fixed by the governor, chief justice, and United States attorney, or any two of them, which proclamation shall be issued within ninety days next after the first day of September, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, and at least thirty days prior to the time of said election; and such election shall be conducted in the same manner as is prescribed by the laws of said Territory regulating elections therein for members of the house of representatives; and the number of members to said convention shall be the same as now constitutes both branches of the legislature of the aforesaid Territory.

Apportionment of representatives.

Time of first election, &c.

Meeting of convention to form State constitution.

SEC. 4. That the members of the convention thus elected shall meet at the capital of said Territory, on a day to be fixed by said governor, chief justice, and United States attorney, not more than sixty days subsequent to the day of election, which time of meeting shall be contained in the aforesaid proclamation mentioned in the third section of this act, and, after organization, shall declare, on behalf of the people of said Territory, that they adopt the Constitution of the United States; whereupon the said convention shall be, and is hereby, authorized to form a constitution and State government for said Territory: *Provided*, That the constitution shall be republican in form, and make no distinction in civil or political rights on account of race or color, except Indians not taxed, and not be repugnant to the Constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence: *And provided further*, That said convention shall provide, by an ordinance irrevocable without the consent of the United States and the people of said State, first, that perfect toleration of religious sentiment shall be secured, and no inhabitant of said State shall ever be molested,

No distinction on account of race, color, &c.

Religious toleration.

in person or property, on account of his or her mode of religious worship; secondly, that the people inhabiting said Territory do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within said Territory, and that the same shall be and remain at the sole and entire disposition of the United States, and that the lands belonging to citizens of the United States residing without the said State shall never be taxed higher than the lands belonging to residents thereof, and that no taxes shall be imposed by the State on lands or property therein belonging to, or which may hereafter be purchased by the United States.

Unappropriated public lands.

Taxes.

SEC. 5. That in case the constitution and State government shall be formed for the people of said Territory of Colorado, in compliance with the provisions of this act, said convention forming the same shall provide, by ordinance, for submitting said constitution to the people of said State for their ratification or rejection, at an election, to be held at such time, in the month of July, eighteen hundred and seventy-six, and at such places and under such regulations as may be prescribed by said convention, at which election the lawful voters of said new State shall vote directly for or against the proposed constitution; and the returns of said election shall be made to the acting governor of the Territory, who, with the chief justice and United States attorney of said Territory, or any two of them, shall canvass the same; and if a majority of legal votes shall be cast for said constitution in said proposed State, the said acting governor shall certify the same to the President of the United States, together with a copy of said constitution and ordinances; whereupon it shall be the duty of the President of the United States to issue his proclamation declaring the State admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, without any further action whatever on the part of Congress.

Constitution to be submitted to popular vote.

Voting and returns.

SEC. 6. That until the next general census said State shall be entitled to one Representative in the House of Representatives of the United States, which Representative, together with the governor and State and other officers provided for in said constitution, shall be elected on a day subsequent to the adoption of the constitution, and to be fixed by said constitutional convention; and until said State officers are elected and qualified under the provisions of the constitution, the territorial officers shall continue to discharge the duties of their respective offices.

Representative in Congress.

SEC. 7. That sections numbered sixteen and thirty-six in every township, and where such sections have been sold or otherwise disposed of by any act of Congress, other lands, equivalent thereto, in legal subdivisions of not more than one quarter-section, and as contiguous as may be, are hereby granted to said State for the support of common schools.

School lands.

SEC. 8. That, provided the State of Colorado shall be admitted into the Union in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this act, fifty entire sections of the unappropriated public lands within said State, to be selected and located by direction of the legislature thereof, and with the approval of the President, on or before the first day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, shall be, and are hereby, granted, in legal subdivisions of not less than one quarter-section, to said State for the purpose of erecting public buildings at the capital of said State for legislative and judicial purposes, in such manner as the legislature shall prescribe.

Land for public buildings.

SEC. 9. That fifty other entire sections of land as aforesaid, to be selected and located and with the approval as aforesaid, in legal subdivisions as aforesaid, shall be, and they are hereby, granted to said State for the purpose of erecting a suitable building for a penitentiary or State prison in the manner aforesaid.

Penitentiary.

SEC. 10. That seventy-two other sections of land shall be set apart and reserved for the use and support of a State university, to be selected and approved in manner as aforesaid, and to be appropriated and applied as the legislature of said State may prescribe for the purpose named and for no other purpose.

State university

Salt-springs.

SEC. 11. That all salt-springs within said State, not exceeding twelve in number, with six sections of land adjoining, and as contiguous as may be to each, shall be granted to said State for its use, the said land to be selected by the governor of said State within two years after the admission of the State, and when so selected to be used and disposed of on such terms, conditions, and regulations as the legislature shall direct: *Provided*, That no salt-spring or lands the right whereof is now vested in any individual or individuals, or which hereafter shall be confirmed or adjudged to any individual or individuals, shall by this act be granted to said State.

Proviso.

Five per cent. of sales of public lands for internal improvements.

Proviso.

SEC. 12. That five per centum of the proceeds of the sales of agricultural public lands lying within said State which shall be sold by the United States subsequent to the admission of said State into the Union, after deducting all the expenses incident to the same, shall be paid to the said State for the purpose of making such internal improvements within said State as the legislature thereof may direct: *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to any lands disposed of under the homestead-laws of the United States, or to any lands now or hereafter reserved for public or other uses.

Unexpended balances of appropriations.

SEC. 13. That any balance of the appropriations for the legislative expenses of said Territory of Colorado remaining unexpended shall be applied to and used for defraying the expenses of said convention, and for the payment of the members thereof, under the same rules and regulations and rates as are now provided by law for the payment of the territorial legislature.

School-fund.

SEC. 14. That the two sections of land in each township herein granted for the support of common schools shall be disposed of only at public sale and at a price not less than two dollars and fifty cents per acre, the proceeds to constitute a permanent school-fund, the interest of which to be expended in the support of common schools.

Mineral lands.

SEC. 15. That all mineral-lands shall be excepted from the operation and grants of this act.

Approved, March 3, 1875.

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CHAP. 140.—An act to establish the boundary-line between the State of Arkansas and the Indian country.

Boundary-line between Arkansas and the Indian country.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the boundary-line between the State of Arkansas and the Indian country, as originally surveyed and marked, and upon which the lines of the surveys of the public lands in the State of Arkansas were closed, be, and the same is hereby, declared to be the permanent boundary-line between the said State of Arkansas and the Indian country.

Boundary-line to be retraced, &c.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Interior shall, as soon as practicable, cause the boundary-line, as fixed in the foregoing section, to be retraced and marked in a distinct and permanent manner; and if the original line, when retraced, shall be found to differ in any respect from what the boundary-line would be if run in accordance with the provisions of the treaties establishing the eastern boundary-line of the Choctaw and Cherokee Nations, then the surveyors shall note such variations and compute the area of the land which in that case would be taken from the State of Arkansas or the Indian country, as the case may be; and the Secretary of the Interior shall also cause any monuments set up in any former survey indicating any line at variance with the survey provided for in this act to be obliterated.

Variations to be noted, &c.

Approved, March 3, 1875.