

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars, heretofore paid to the President of the United States under the treaty made with the Seneca Indians of New York, in the year eighteen hundred and forty-two, for the benefit of said Indians, and the stock in which the same may have been invested, shall be, and the same is hereby taken absolutely to the use of the United States, in accordance with the prayer of said Indians; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cancel the said stock, and place upon the books of his department the amount of seventy-five thousand dollars to the credit of said Indians, upon which sum interest shall thereafter be paid to them, at the rate of five per centum per annum: *Provided*, That any interest which may be due and unpaid on said stock, at the time of its cancellation, shall be forthwith paid to them.

\$75,000 of stock invested for Senecas of New York to be cancelled, and the amount placed for the credit of said Indians.

5 per cent. interest to be paid them.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to receive from the Ontario Bank of New York any stock of the public debt of the United States, or moneys which the said bank may hold in trust for the said Senecas, whenever the said Indians, or other persons whose consent may be necessary, shall in proper form authorize the transfer; and to cause the stock to be cancelled, and the amount thereof, and of any moneys which he may receive, to be deposited in the treasury to the credit of said Indians, upon which amount interest shall thereafter be paid to them at the rate of five per centum per annum, until Congress may direct the principal in this and the preceding section to be paid to the Indians.

President to receive from Ontario Bank, any U. S. stock and money held by it for benefit of the Senecas, and to cancel it, and to place the amount to the credit of the said Indians.

5 per cent. interest to be paid them.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, required to ascertain what annuities or moneys have been wrongfully withholden from the said Senecas by the late sub-agent of the United States, and so lost to them; and to that end the said Secretary is authorized, if in his judgment it shall be necessary or expedient so to do, to issue a commission or commissions to some discreet person or persons, to be selected by him, to take testimony in the premises, and to report the same to Congress; and, to defray any expenses which may be incurred in the execution of the provisions of this section, a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars is hereby appropriated.

Secretary of War to ascertain what annuities have been withheld from said Senecas, to take testimony, &c.

\$500 appropriated to defray the necessary expenses.

APPROVED, June 27, 1846.

CHAP. XXXV. — *An Act to retrocede the County of Alexandria, in the District of Columbia, to the State of Virginia.*

July 9, 1846.

Whereas, no more territory ought to be held under the exclusive legislation given to Congress over the District which is the seat of the General Government than may be necessary and proper for the purposes of such a seat; and whereas, experience hath shown that the portion of the District of Columbia ceded to the United States by the State of Virginia has not been, nor is ever likely to be, necessary for that purpose; and whereas, the State of Virginia, by an act passed on the third day of February, eighteen hundred and forty-six, entitled "An act accepting by the State of Virginia the County of Alexandria, in the District of Columbia, when the same shall be receded by the Congress of the United States," hath signified her willingness to take back the said territory ceded as aforesaid: Therefore —

Preamble.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, with the assent

Alexandria county retroceded to Virginia.

of the people of the county and town of Alexandria, to be ascertained as hereinafter prescribed, all of that portion of the District of Columbia ceded to the United States by the State of Virginia, and all the rights and jurisdiction therewith ceded over the same, be, and the same are hereby, ceded and forever relinquished to the State of Virginia, in full and absolute right and jurisdiction, as well of soil as of persons residing or to reside thereon.

This act not to be construed so as to vest in Virginia any right of property in the custom-house & post office, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to vest in the State of Virginia any right of property in the custom-house and post-office of the United States within the town of Alexandria, or in the soil of the territory hereby ceded, so as to affect the rights of individuals or corporations therein, otherwise than as the same shall or may be transferred by such individuals or corporations to the State of Virginia.

Existing laws and jurisdiction to continue until Virginia shall provide by law for the extension of her jurisdiction, &c.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the jurisdiction and laws now existing in the said territory, ceded to the United States by the State of Virginia, as aforesaid, over the persons and property of individuals therein residing, shall not cease or determine until the State of Virginia shall hereafter provide, by law, for the extension of her jurisdiction and judicial system over the said territory hereby ceded.

Assent of the people of Alexandria town and county required.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall not be in force until after the assent of the people of the county and town of Alexandria shall be given to it in the mode hereinafter provided. Immediately after the close of the present session of Congress, the President of the United States shall appoint five commissioners, (any three of whom may act,) citizens of the said town or county of Alexandria, and freeholders within the same, who shall be sworn, before some justice of the peace in and for the said town or county, to discharge the duties hereby imposed upon them faithfully, impartially, and to the best of their ability. These commissioners, or any of them, shall proceed, within ten days after they are notified of their appointment, to fix upon the time, place, and manner, of taking the vote within the town or county of Alexandria, and shall give notice of the same by advertisement in the newspapers of the said town. And on the day and at the place so appointed, every free white male citizen of the United States, who shall have resided in said county of Alexandria for six months preceding the time when he offers his vote, insane persons and paupers excepted, shall vote *viva voce* upon the question of accepting or rejecting the provisions of this act. The said commissioners shall preside when this vote is taken, and decide all questions arising in relation to the right of voting under this act. Within three days after this vote is taken as aforesaid, the said commissioners shall make out three statements of the result of this poll; upon oath, and under their seals. Of these, one shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, one to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and one shall be deposited in the clerk's office of the county court of Alexandria. If a majority of the votes so given shall be cast against accepting the provisions of this act, then it shall be void and of no effect; but if a majority of the said votes should be in favor of accepting the provisions of this act, then this act shall be in full force, and it shall be the duty of the President of the United States to inform the Governor of Virginia that this act is in full force and effect, and to make proclamation of the fact.

Manner of ascertaining the sense of the people of said town and county.

Proclamation to be made. Post, Appendix.

Right of property in the court-house and jail to be conveyed to the Governor of Virginia for use of said town and county.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That, in such case, the right of property in the half square in Alexandria on which stands the court-house, bounded by Columbus, Queen, and Princess Streets, and the half square on which stands the jail, bounded by Princess, St. Asaph, and Pitt Streets, shall be conveyed to the Governor of Virginia, and his successors, for the use of the county and corporation of Alexan-

dria forever; and the Solicitor of the Treasury of the United States is hereby authorized and required, in the name and on the behalf of the United States, to make all the proper and necessary conveyances for that purpose.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That Congress will in no event assume and pay the debt, or any part thereof, now due by the corporation of the city of Alexandria.

APPROVED, July 9, 1846.

The debt of the corporation of Alexandria not to be assumed by Congress.

CHAP. XXXVI. — *An Act to authorize the President of the United States to sell the reserved mineral Lands in the States of Illinois and Arkansas, and Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa, supposed to contain Lead Ore.*

July 11, 1846.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President be, and he hereby is, authorized, as soon as practicable, to cause the reserved lead mines and contiguous lands in the State of Illinois and Arkansas, and Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa, belonging to the United States, to be exposed to sale, in the same manner that other public lands are authorized by law to be sold, except as hereinafter provided.

All the reserved lead mines and contiguous lands in Illinois, Arkansas, Wisconsin, and Iowa, to be exposed to sale.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That six months' notice of the times and places of said sales shall be given in such newspapers of general circulation, in such of the States as the President may think expedient, with a brief description of the mineral regions of the States of Illinois and Arkansas, and Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa, and of the lands to be offered for sale; showing the number and localities of the different mines now known, the probability of discovering others, the quality of the ore, the facilities of working it, the further facilities (if any) for manufactories of shot, sheet lead, and paints, and the means and expense of transporting the whole to the principal markets in the United States: *Provided*, That the said lands shall not be subject to the rights of preëmption until after the same have been offered at public sale and subject to private entry.

Six months' public notice to be given of such sales, with a brief description, &c.

Proviso as to preëmption.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That upon satisfactory proof, made to the register and receiver of the proper land office, that any tract or tracts of said lands contain a mine or mines of lead ore, actually discovered and being worked, then, and in that case, the same shall be sold in such legal subdivision or subdivisions as will include such mine or mines; and no bid shall be received therefor at a less rate than the sum of two dollars and fifty cents per acre; and if such tract or tracts shall not be sold at such public sale, at such price, nor shall be entered at private sale within twelve months thereafter, then the same shall be subject to sale as other lands: *Provided*, That no legal subdivision of any of said lands, upon which there may be an outstanding lease or leases from the Government of the United States, or their authorized agent, unexpired and undetermined, shall be sold until after the determination of such lease or leases by effluxion of time, voluntary surrender, or other legal extinguishment thereof.

Any tract containing a mine or mines of lead ore to be sold in such legal subdivisions as will include such mine or mines.

No bid less than \$2 50 per acre to be taken within one year.

Leased subdivisions not to be sold until expiration of lease.

APPROVED, July 11, 1846.

CHAP. XXXVII. — *An Act to legalize certain Land Sales made at Chocchuma and Columbus, in the State of Mississippi, and to indemnify the Chickasaws therefor.*

July 15, 1846.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it may and shall be lawful for patents to be issued, as in ordinary cases, for such

Patents to issue for such sales of land at Choc-