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LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES

(BY AUTHORITY.)

AN ACT

To establish a Quarter master's Department, 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 hereby is established a Quarter master's Department for the army of the United States, to consist of a quarter master general, four deputy quarter masters, and as many assistant deputy quarter masters as, in the opinion of the President of the United States, the public service may require; the quarter-master general and deputy quarter masters to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and the assistant deputy quarter masters by the President alone. And he hereby is authorised moreover to appoint such additional number of deputy quarter masters, not exceeding four, to be taken from the lines or not, at his discretion, as in his judgment the public service may require.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the quarter master-general shall be entitled to the rank, pay and emoluments of a brigadier-general, under the act of the twelfth of April, one thousand eight hundred and eight, with forage for two additional horses; the deputy quarter masters, when not taken from the line, shall be entitled to receive sixty dollars per month, five rations per day and forage for two horses; but if taken from the line, then such additional pay and emoluments as shall be equal to the foregoing provision; the assistant deputy quarter masters, when not taken from the line, shall be entitled to and receive forty dollars per month, three rations per day and forage for one horse; but, if taken from the line, then such additional pay and emoluments as shall be equal to the foregoing provision.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That in addition to their duties in the field, it shall be the duty of the quarter master general, his deputies, and assistant deputies, when thereto directed by the Secretary of War, to purchase military stores, camp equipage and other articles requisite for the troops, and generally to procure and provide means of transport for the army, its stores, artillery and camp equipage. That the quarter master general shall account as often as may be required, and at least once in three months, with the Department of War, in such manner as shall be prescribed, for all property which may pass through his hands, or the hands of the subordinate officers in his department, or that may be in his or their care or possession, and for all monies which he or they may expend in discharging their respective duties; that he shall be responsible for the regularity and correctness of all returns in his department, and that he, his deputies and assistant deputies, before they enter on the execution of their respective offices, shall severally take an oath faithfully to perform the duties thereof.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be a commissary general of purchases, and as many deputy commissaries as, in the opinion of the President of the United States, the public service may require, to be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the commissary general of purchases, under the direction and supervision of the Secretary of War, to conduct the procuring and providing of all arms, military stores, clothing, and generally all articles of supply requisite for the military service of the United States; and it shall be the duty of the deputy commissaries, when directed thereto, either by the Secretary of War, the commissary general of purchases, or in case of necessity, by the commanding general, quarter master general, or deputy quarter masters, to purchase all such of the aforesaid articles as may be requisite for the military service of the United States.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That neither the quarter master general nor the commissary general shall directly or indirectly be concerned or interested in carrying on the business of trade or commerce, or be owner in whole or in part of any sea vessel, nor shall either of them purchase by himself, or another in trust for him, public lands or any other public property, or be concerned in the purchase or disposal of any public securities of any state, or of the U. States, or take or apply to his own use, any emolument or gain for negociating or transacting any business in the said department, other than what shall be allowed by law; and if either the said quarter master general or commissary general shall offend against any of the prohibitions of this act, the parties so shall, upon conviction, forfeit to the United States the penalty of three thousand dollars, and may be imprisoned for a term not exceeding five years, and shall be removed from office, and be forever thereafter incapable of holding any office under the United States.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the salary of the commissary general of purchases shall be three thousand dollars per annum; and the compensation to a deputy commissary shall not exceed two and one half per centum on the public monies disbursed by him, nor in any instance the sum of two thousand dollars per annum.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the commissary general of purchases shall, before he enters upon his duties, give bond with sufficient surety to be approved of by the Secretary of War, in the sum of fifty thousand dollars; and the deputy commissaries each in the sum of ten thousand dollars, with condition for the faithful performance of the duties of their office respectively, which bonds shall be lodged with the Comptroller of the Treasury.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the last day of May next, so much of the act entitled "An act to establish the office of purveyor of public supplies," as relates to the appointment and services of a purveyor of public supplies, be, and the same is hereby repealed; and in the mean time, the purveyor shall deliver over to the commissary general or one of his deputies, the public stores and property of all sorts in his possession, who shall receipt to him for the same.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That all letters and packets to and from the quarter master general and commissary general, shall be free from postage.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That there be allowed for the compensation of the necessary clerks in the quarter master general's office, a sum not exceeding fifteen hundred dollars a year; and for the compensation of the Clerks of the commissary general, a sum not exceeding seventeen hundred dollars per annum, with such books and stationery as may be necessary to the quarter master general's and commissary general's departments.

Sec. 12 *And be it further enacted*, That the quarter master general, be authorised to appoint a principal waggon master and as many waggon masters, as he may judge necessary for the service of the army, not exceeding one to each brigade, whose duty shall be, under the direction of the quarter master general or any of his deputies, to provide and conduct the waggons and other means of transport necessary and proper for the military service of the United States.

Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That no waggon master shall directly or indirectly be concerned or interested in any waggon, or means of transport employed in the service of the United States; nor in the purchase or sale of any horses, harness, waggons or other means of transport, procured for, or belonging to the United States, except, as agent for the United States.

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the principal waggon master shall be entitled to receive forty dollars per month, three rations per day and forage for one horse, and each waggon master shall be entitled to receive thirty dollars per month, two rations per day and forage for one horse.

Sec. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That the quarter master general be authorised to appoint one principal forage master, and as many assistant forage masters as the nature of the service may require, not exceeding one to each brigade, whose duty shall be, under the direction of the quarter master general, or any of his deputies, to provide and deliver out forage necessary and proper for the military service of the United States; nor shall any forage master be directly or indirectly concerned in the purchase or sale of any article of forage procured for or belonging to the United States, except as an agent for the United States.

Sec. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That the principal forage master shall be entitled to receive forty dollars per month, three rations per day and forage for two horses; and that the other forage masters shall be entitled to and receive thirty dollars per month, two rations per day and forage for one horse.

Sec. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be four conductors of artillery, who shall be appointed by the President alone, each of whom shall be entitled to the pay and emoluments of a lieutenant of artillery.

Sec. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall go into operation on the first day of April next; and that so much of the act fixing the military peace establishment of the United States as respects the appointment of military agents and assistant military agents, be and the same is hereby repealed, from and after that day; but all those agents shall continue to perform their respective duties in the mean time, and until the deputy and assistant deputy quarter masters shall be appointed and ready to enter on the execution of their respective offices; to whom the said military agents and assistant military agents shall then deliver all the public stores and property in their possession.

Sec. 19. *And be it further enacted*, That all persons attached to the public service by virtue of this act, shall be subject to military law, except the deputy commissaries.

Sec. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That the President may, and he hereby is authorised in the recess of the Senate, to appoint the quarter master general, deputy quarter masters, commissary general and deputy commissaries, or any of them; which appointments shall be submitted to the Senate at their next session, for their advice and consent.

H. CLAY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
W. H. CRAWFORD.
President of the Senate, pro tempore.
March 28, 1812.
Approved, JAS. MADISON.

AN ACT

Supplementary to "an act providing for the accommodation of the General Post Office, and Patent Office, and for other purposes."

BE *it enacted by the Senate & House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That the Post Master General, under the direction of the President of the United States, be authorised to repair and finish, in a suitable manner for the accommodation of the Post Office Department and the Patent Office, the two stories in the building purchased for the government, by authority of the aforesaid act, being the first and second stories, including also sundry repairs on the outside and in the garret of said building, upon the principles stated in the report of the Post Master General, dated January fifteenth, one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That as soon as the repairs can be properly made, and before the commencement of the next annual session of Congress, the General Post Office and the City Post Office shall be removed to said public building.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That for the purpose of completing the aforesaid work, there be appropriated, from any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of thirteen thousand, two hundred and forty seven dollars and sixty one cents, including the sum of two thousand, three hundred dollars now in the Treasury, and also, the sum of one thousand, three hundred and ninety three dollars and seventy cents, now in the hands of Thomas Munroe, Superintendant of the City of Washington, being unexpended balances of the sum of twenty thousand dollars, authorised by the act of April, twenty eighth, one thousand eight hundred and ten, which act is a supplement.

H. CLAY, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*
GEO. CLINTON, *Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.*
March 7, 1812.
Approved, JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

For the relief of the Board of Commissioners west of Pearl River.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That the proper accounting officers of the Treasury, be, and they are hereby directed to audit and settle the accounts of the Board of Commissioners west of Pearl River, in the Mississippi Territory, and to allow each of them the sum of six dollars per day for every day's actual attendance of the Board, subsequent to the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and six, except for the eighty four days already provided for.

H. CLAY, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*
GEO. CLINTON, *Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.*
March 10, 1812.
Approved, JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

Making appropriations for the defence of our Maritime frontier.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That the sum of five hundred thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, in addition to the sums already appropriated, for the purposes of fortifying and defending the maritime frontier of the United States; and that the same be paid out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

H. CLAY, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*
GEO. CLINTON, *Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate.*
March 10, 1812.
Approved—JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

Giving further time for registering claims to land in the Western District of the Territory of Orleans.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That every person or persons claiming lands in the western district of the Territory of Orleans who are actual settlers on the land which they claim, and whose claims have not been heretofore filed with the Register of the Land Office, for the said district, shall be allowed until the first day of November next, to deliver notices in writing, and the written evidences of their claims to the Register of the Land Office at Opelousas; and the notices and evidences so delivered within the time limited by this act, shall be recorded in the same manner, and on payment of the same fees, as if the same had been delivered before the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and eight; but the rights of such person as shall neglect so doing within the time limited by this act, shall, so far as they are derived from, or founded on any act of Congress, ever after be barred and become void, and the evidences of their claims never after admitted as evidence in any court of the United States against any grant derived from the United States.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Register and Receiver of public monies of the said Land Office at Opelousas, shall have the same powers and perform the same duties in relation to the claims thus filed before the first day of November next, as if notice of the same had been given before the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and eight, and that their decisions shall be subject to the revision of Congress. And it shall be the duty of the said Register and Receiver to make to the Secretary of the Treasury, a report of all the claims thus filed with the Register of the Land Office, together with the subsistance of the evidence in support thereof, with their opinion, and such remarks thereon as they may think proper; which report together with a list of the claims, which, in the opinion of the Register and Receiver, ought be confirmed, shall be laid by the Secretary of the Treasury before Congress at their next session, for their determination thereon. The said Register and Receiver shall have power to appoint a clerk whose duty shall be the same, in relation to the claims filed as aforesaid, as was required of the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners for adjusting claims to land in the said district; and the said Register, Receiver & Clerk, shall each be allowed fifty cents for each claim filed according to this act and on which a decision shall be made, whether such decision be in favor of, or against the claim; which allowance, of fifty cents shall be in full compensation for their services under this act.

H. CLAY, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*
GEO. CLINTON, *Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate.*
March 10, 1812.
Approved—JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

To alter the time of holding the Circuit Courts of the United States at Knoxville in the district of East Tennessee, in the State of Tennessee.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That so much of the first section of an act, entitled, "an act to amend an act entitled an act establishing Circuit Courts and abridging the jurisdiction of the District Courts of the Districts of Kentucky, Tennessee & Ohio," passed on the twenty second day of March, eighteen hundred and eight, as provides that the sessions of the said Circuit Courts shall be held at Knoxville, in East Tennessee, on the third Monday of October annually, shall be and is hereby repealed; and from and after the passing of this act, the said Circuit Courts shall be held at Knoxville, in the district of East Tennessee, on the second Monday in October, annually, and continue until all the business therein depending be disposed of, and that all actions, causes, pleas, processes and other proceedings relative to any cause, civil or criminal, which shall be returnable to or depending in the said Circuit Court of the United States, to be held at Knoxville, on the third Monday of October next, shall be returned, and held, continued to and be proceeded upon on the second Monday in October next, in the same manner they would have been if this change had not been made.

H. CLAY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
GEO CLINTON, *Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.*
March 10, 1812.
Approved JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

Concerning the Naval Establishment.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to cause to be immediately repaired, equipped and put into actual service, the frigates Chesapeake, Constellation and Adams; and that a sum not exceeding three hundred thousand dollars be, and is hereby appropriated for that purpose.

Sec. 2 *And be it further enacted*, That the officers and seamen of the navy may be increased so far as may be necessary to officer, man & equip the vessels so to be put into service, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sec. 3 *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, annually for three years, namely, one thousand eight hundred and twelve, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, and one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, be appropriated towards the purchase and supply of a stock of every description of timber required for ship building and other navy purchases; and that the first appropriation thereof be made in the purchase of timber suitable for rebuilding the frigates Philadelphia, Gen. Green, New York and Boston

Sec. 4 *And be it further enacted*, That the sums herein specifically appropriated shall be paid out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That as soon as it shall be deemed compatible with the good of the public service, the gun boats now in commission be laid up, and, with those not in commission, be distributed in the several harbors of the maritime frontier which are most exposed to attack, to be carefully kept and used as circumstances may require.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the Pursers in the navy of the United States shall be appointed by the President of the United States by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and that from and after the first day of May next, no person shall act in the character of Purser, who shall not have been thus first nominated and appointed, except Pursers on distant service, who shall not remain in service after the first day of July next, unless nominated and appointed as aforesaid: And every Purser, before entering upon the duties of his office, shall give bond with two or more sufficient sureties, in the penalty of ten thousand dollars, conditioned faithfully to perform all the duties of Purser in the navy of the United States.

H. CLAY, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*
WM. H. CRAWFORD,
President of the Senate, pro tempore.
March 30, 1812.
Approved JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

Granting to the corporation of the city of New Orleans the use and possession of a lot in the said City.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled*, That all the right and claim of the United States to the use, possession and occupation of a space of one hundred and fifty by one hundred and twenty five feet of a vacant lot of ground, in the City of New Orleans, bounded by Bienville and Custom House streets, and by Levee street and the high road, be, and the same is hereby vested in the corporation of the said City. And the said corporation is authorised to use, possess and occupy the same for the purpose of erecting or causing to be erected and kept in operation a Steam Engine, or Engines, for conveying water into the said City and all buildings necessary to the said purpose: *Provided*, That if the said space of ground shall not be occupied for the said purpose within the term of three years from and after the passing of this act, or shall at any time thereafter cease to be so occupied, for the term of three years, the right and claim of the United States thereto shall remain unimpaired: *And provided also*, That this act shall not effect the claim or claims of any individual or individuals if any such there be.

H. CLAY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
WM H CRAWFORD,
President of the Senate, pro tempore.
April 3, 1812.
Approved, JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

Repeal the tenth section of the act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate & House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That the tenth section of the act, entitled, "An act to incorporate the subscribers to the bank of the United States," shall be, and the same is hereby repealed.

H. CLAY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
GEO. CLINTON,
Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.
March 19, 1812.
Approved,
JAMES MADISON.