sum to be applied to the completion of the Capitol at Saint Paul, and the remainder to the completion of the prison buildings at Stillwater, in said Territory, to be expended under the direction of the Legislative authority thereof: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize any farther expenditure by said Territorial authority for the purposes aforesaid than is provided for in this act.

Proviso.

APPROVED, March 3, 1853.

March 3, 1853.

CHAP. CXLIII.—*An Act to extend Preëmption Rights to certain Lands therein mentioned.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the preëmption laws of the United States, as they now exist, be and they are hereby extended over the alternate reserved sections of public lands along the lines of all the railroads in the United States wherever public lands have been or may be granted by acts of Congress; and that it shall be the privilege of the persons residing on any of said reserved lands to pay for the same in soldiers' bounty land warrants, estimated at a dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, or in gold and silver, or both together, in preference to any other person, and at any time before the same shall be offered for sale at auction: *Provided*, That no person shall be entitled to the benefit of this act who has not settled and improved, or shall not settle and improve, such lands prior to the final allotment of the alternate sections to such railroads by the General Land Office: *And provided further*, That the price to be paid shall in all cases be two dollars and fifty cents per acre, or such other minimum price as is now fixed by law, or may be fixed upon lands hereafter granted; and no one person shall have the right of preëmption to more than one hundred and sixty acres; *And provided further*, That any settler who has settled or may hereafter settle on lands heretofore reserved on account of claims under French, Spanish, or other grants which have been or shall be hereafter declared by the Supreme Court of the United States to be invalid, shall be entitled to all the rights of preëmption granted by this act and the act of fourth of September, eighteen hundred and forty-one, entitled "An act to appropriate the proceeds of the public lands and to grant preëmption rights," after the lands shall have been released from reservation, in the same manner as if no reservation existed.

Preëmption laws extended to sections reserved or to be reserved on lines of railways.

Provisos.

Price.

Limit to 160 acres.

Preëmption on French or Spanish claims declared invalid.

1841, ch. 16.

APPROVED, March 3, 1853.

March 3, 1853.

CHAP. CXLIV.—*An Act authorizing Changes in the Location of Land Offices.*

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 is hereby authorized to change the location of the land offices in the several land districts established by law, and to establish the same from time to time at such point in the district as he may deem expedient.

Location of land offices may be changed.

APPROVED, March 3, 1853.

March 3, 1853.

CHAP. CXLV.—*An Act to provide for the Survey of the Public Lands in California, the granting of Preëmption Rights therein, and for other purposes.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Surveyor-General for the District or State of California, who is now or may hereafter be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall keep his office at such place as the President, in view of the public convenience, shall from time to time direct; and the Surveyor-General, if he has not already done so, and his successors in office, before entering upon duty, shall take and subscribe an oath or affirmation, be-

Place of office of Surveyor-General for California.

Oath of office.

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