of said lands become subject to private entry until the same have been first offered at public sale at the increased price.

Object of grant.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said lands hereby granted to the said State shall be subject to the disposal of the legislature thereof, for the purposes aforesaid, and no other; and the said railroads shall be and remain public highways for the use of the government of the United States, free from toll or other charge upon the transportation of any property or troops of the United States.

Railroad to be a public highway for the government.

Lands, how disposed of.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the lands hereby granted to said State shall be disposed of by said State only in manner following, that is to say: That a quantity of land, not exceeding one hundred and twenty sections for each of said roads, and included within a continuous length of twenty miles of each of said roads, may be sold; and when the governor of said State shall certify to the Secretary of the Interior that any twenty continuous miles of any of said roads is completed, then another quantity of land hereby granted, not to exceed one hundred and twenty sections for each of said roads having twenty continuous miles completed as aforesaid, and included within a continuous length of twenty miles of each of such roads, may be sold; and so, from time to time, until said roads are completed; and if any of said roads is not completed within ten years, no further sale shall be made, and the lands unsold shall revert to the United States.

Transportation of mails.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the United States mail shall be transported over said roads, under the direction of the Post-Office Department, at such price as Congress may, by law, direct: *Provided*, That until such price is fixed by law, the Postmaster-General shall have the power to determine the same.

Grant of other lands to Alabama for railroads.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That a grant of lands shall be made to said State to aid in the construction of the following roads in said State, to wit: the Memphis and Charleston railroad, extending from Memphis on the Mississippi River, in Tennessee, to Stevenson, on the Nashville and Chattenooga railroad, in Alabama; the Girard and Mobile railroad, from Girard to Mobile, Alabama; the Northeast and Southwestern railroad, from near Gadsden to some point on the Alabama and Mississippi State line, in the direction to the Mobile and Ohio railroad, with a view to connect with said Mobile and Ohio railroad; the Coosa and Alabama railroad, from Selma to Gadsden; the Central railroad from Montgomery to some point on the Alabama and Tennessee State line in the direction to Nashville, Tennessee; and that alternate sections of the public lands to the same extend and in the same manner, and upon the same limitations and restrictions in every respect, shall be and is hereby made to aid in the construction of the roads in said State mentioned in this act: *Provided*, That the lands hereby granted to said State for the purpose of constructing a railroad from the northeast to the southwestern portion of said State, lying northwest of Elyton, shall be assigned to such road as may be designated by the legislature of said State.

1857, ch. 103. *Post*, p. 200.

Proviso.

APPROVED, June 3, 1856.

June 3, 1856.

CHAP. XLII.—*An Act making a Grant of Lands to the State of Louisiana, to aid in the Construction of Railroads in said State.*

Grant of land to Louisiana for a railroad.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there be and is hereby granted to the State of Louisiana, for the purpose of aiding in the construction of a railroad from the Texas line, in the State of Louisiana, west of the town of Greenwood; via Greenwood, Shreveport, and Monroe, to a point on the Mississippi River, opposite Vicksburg; and from New Orleans by Opelousas, to the State line of Texas; and from New Orleans to the State line, in the direction to Jackson, Mississippi; every alternate

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section of land designated by odd numbers, for six sections in width on each side of said road. But in case it shall appear that the United States have, when the line or route of said road is definitely fixed, sold any sections, or any parts thereof, granted as aforesaid, or that the right of preemption has attached to the same, then it shall be lawful for any agent or agents, to be appointed by the governor of said State, to select, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, from the lands of the United States, nearest to the tier of sections above specified, so much in alternate sections, or parts of sections, as shall be equal to such lands as the United States have sold, or otherwise appropriated, or to which the right of preëmption has attached as aforesaid; which lands (thus selected in lieu of those sold, and to which preëmption rights have attached as aforesaid, together with the sections and parts of sections designated by odd numbers as aforesaid, and appropriated as aforesaid,) shall be held by the State of Louisiana for the use and purpose aforesaid: *Provided*, That the lands to be so located shall in no case be further than fifteen miles from the line of said roads and selected for and on account of said roads: *Provided further*, That the lands hereby granted shall be exclusively applied in the construction of said roads, and shall be disposed of only as the work progresses, and the same shall be applied to no other purpose whatsoever: *And provided further*, That any and all lands heretofore reserved to the United States by any act of Congress, or in any other manner by competent authority, for the purpose of aiding in any object of internal improvement, or for any other purpose whatsoever, be, and the same are hereby, reserved to the United States from the operation of this act, except so far as it may be found necessary to locate the route of said railroads through such reserved lands, in which case the right of way only shall be granted, subject to the approval of the President of the United States.

Grant in lieu of lands preempted or sold.

Land, how applied.

Act not to apply to reservations except as to right of way.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the sections, and parts of sections, of land which, by such grant, shall remain to the United States, within six miles on each side of said roads, shall not be sold for less than double the minimum price of the public lands when sold; nor shall any of said lands become subject to private entry until the same have been first offered at public sale at the increased price.

Price of alternate sections doubled.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said lands hereby granted to the said State, shall be subject to the disposal of the legislature thereof, for the purposes aforesaid, and no other; and the said railroads shall be and remain a public highway for the use of the government of the United States, free from toll or other charge, upon the transportation of any property or troops of the United States.

Object of grant

Railroads to be a public highway for government.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the lands hereby granted to said State, shall be disposed of only in manner following; that is to say, that a quantity of land not exceeding one hundred and twenty sections, and included within a continuous length of twenty miles of said roads, may be sold; and when the governor of said State shall certify to the Secretary of the Interior that any twenty continuous miles of said roads are completed, then another like quantity of land hereby granted may be so sold; and so, from time to time, until said roads are completed; and if said roads are not completed within ten years, no further sale shall be made, and the lands unsold shall revert to the United States.

Lands, how disposed.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the United States mail shall be transported over said roads under the direction of the Post-Office Department, at such price as Congress may, by law, direct: *Provided*, That until such price is fixed by law, the Postmaster-General shall have the power to determine the same.

Transportation of mails.

APPROVED, June 3, 1856.