stitution of the United States, and paying the amount of said tax and penalty, with interest thereon from the date of the said proclamation of the President mentioned in the second section of this act, at the rate of fifteen per centum per annum, together with the expenses of the sale and subsequent proceedings, to be determined by said commissioners, may redeem said lots of land from said sale; and any purchaser under the same having paid moneys, Treasury notes, or other certificates of indebtedness of the United States, shall, upon such redemption being made, be entitled to have the same, with the interest accruing after said sale, returned to him by the said commissioners, upon surrendering up the certificates of sale: *And provided further*, That if the owner of said lots of ground shall be a minor, a non-resident alien or loyal citizen beyond seas, a person of unsound mind, or under a legal disability, the guardian, trustee, or other person having charge of the person or estate of such person, may redeem the same at any time within two years after the sale thereof, and in the manner above provided, and with like effect: *And provided further*, That at such sale any tracts, parcels, or lots of land which may be selected under the direction of the President for Government use, for war, military, naval, revenue, charitable, educational, or police purposes, may, at said sale, be bid in by said commissioners, under the direction of the President, for, and struck off to the United States: *And provided further*, That the certificate of said commissioners shall only be affected as evidence of the regularity and validity of sale by establishing the fact that said property was not subject to taxes, or that the taxes had been paid previous to sale, or that the property had been redeemed according to the provisions of this act.

Proceedings for redemption.

Redemption where the owner is a minor or under disability.

Certain tracts may be bid off for Government use.

Certificate of commissioners, how alone impeached.

APPROVED, February 6, 1863.

CHAP. XXII. — *An Act to increase the clerical and other Force of the Quartermaster-General's Office, and for other Purposes.*

February 7, 1863

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be added to the clerical and other force in the office of the Quartermaster-General, to be appointed by the Secretary of War, four clerks of class four, and ninety clerks of class one; also, thirty copyists and six laborers, at an annual compensation of six hundred dollars each.

Clerical force in the office of the Quartermaster-General increased.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That in settling the accounts of the commanding officer of a company for clothing and other military supplies, the affidavit of any such officer may be received to show the loss of vouchers, or company books, or any matter or circumstance tending to prove that any apparent deficiency was occasioned by unavoidable accident, or lost in actual service, without any fault on his part, or that the whole or any part of such clothing and supplies had been properly and legally used and appropriated; and such affidavit may be considered as evidence to establish the facts set forth, with or without other evidence, as may seem to the Secretary of War just and proper under the circumstances of the case.

Affidavit of commander of a company may be received to show loss of vouchers, &c.

APPROVED, February 7, 1863.

CHAP XXIII. — *An Act to authorize the Raising of a Volunteer Force for the better Defence of Kentucky.*

February 7, 1863.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Governor of the State of Kentucky, by the consent and under the direction of the President of the United States, shall have power to raise and organize into regiments a volunteer force not exceeding twenty thousand, rank and file, to be raised within the State of Kentucky, to serve for the term of twelve

The Governor of Kentucky may raise a volunteer force not exceeding 20,000.

Term of service.

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