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PUBLIC ACTS OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS

OF THE

UNITED STATES

Passed at the second session, which was begun and held at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, on Monday, the seventh day of December, 1896, and was adjourned without day on Wednesday, the third day of March, 1897.

GROVER CLEVELAND, President; ADLAI E. STEVENSON, Vice-President and President of the Senate; WILLIAM P. FRYE, President of the Senate, *pro tempore;* THOMAS B. REED, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

CHAP. 1.—An Act To aid and encourage the holding of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition at Nashville, Tennessee, in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, and making an appropriation therefor. December 22, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be exhibited at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, to be held at Nashville, Tennessee, in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, by the Government of the United States, from its Executive Departments, the Smithsonian Institution and National Museum, and the United States Fish Commission, such articles and materials as illustrate the function and administrative faculty of the Government in time of peace and its resources as a war power, tending to demonstrate the nature of our institutions and their adaptation to the wants of the people; and to secure a complete and harmonious arrangement of said Government exhibit a board of management shall be created, to be charged with the selection, purchase, preparation, arrangement, safe-keeping, and exhibition of such articles and materials as the heads of said Departments and institutions of the Government may, respectively, decide shall be embraced in said Government exhibit. The President may also designate additional articles for exhibition. Such board shall be composed of one member to be detailed by the head of each Executive Department, one by the head of the Smithsonian Institution and National Museum, and one by the head of the United States Fish Commission; and the President shall name one of said persons so detailed as chairman; and the members of said board shall have no compensation in addition to their regular salary, and their actual and necessary expenses only shall be paid out of the sum hereinafter appropriated.

Tennessee Centennial Exposition.
Government exhibit.

Board to control exhibit.

Composition.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause a suitable building or buildings to be erected on the site selected for the Tennessee Centennial Exposition for the Government exhibit, and he is hereby authorized and directed to contract therefor, in the same manner and under the same regulations as for other public buildings of the United States; but the contract for said building or buildings shall not exceed the sum of thirty thousand dollars, and there is hereby appropriated for said building or buildings, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of thirty thousand dollars. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and required to dispose of such building or buildings, or the material composing the same, at the close

Building for Government exhibit.

Post, p. 698.

Appropriation.

Disposal at close of exposition.

of the exposition, giving preference to the city of Nashville or to the said Tennessee Centennial Exposition Company to purchase the same at an appraised value, to be ascertained in such manner as he may determine, and whatever sum may be realized on sale of said building shall be covered into the Treasury of the United States.

Proceeds.

Appropriation for expenses.

SEC. 3. That for the purpose of paying the expenses of the selection, purchase, preparation, transportation, installation, care, and return of said Government exhibit, and for the employment of proper persons as officers and assistants by the board of management created by this Act and for their expenses, and for the maintenance of the building hereinbefore provided for, and for other contingent expenses incidental to the Government exhibit, to be approved by the chairman of the board of management and by the Secretary of the Treasury upon itemized accounts and vouchers, there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be disbursed by the board of management hereinbefore created, of which not exceeding the sum of ten thousand dollars shall be expended for clerical service.

Free entry of articles for exhibition.

SEC. 4. That all articles which shall be imported from foreign countries for the sole purpose of exhibition at said exposition, upon which there shall be a tariff or customs duty, shall be admitted free of payment of duty, customs fees, or charges, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe; but it shall be lawful at any time during the exhibition to sell, for delivery at the close of the exposition, any goods or property imported for and actually on exhibition in the exposition buildings or on its grounds, subject to such regulations for the security of the revenue and for the collection of import duties as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe: *Provided*, That all such articles, when sold or withdrawn for consumption in the United States, shall be subject to the duty, if any, imposed upon such articles by the revenue laws in force at the date of importation, and all penalties prescribed by law shall be applied and enforced against such articles and against the persons who may be guilty of any illegal sale or withdrawal.

Sales.

Proviso.
Duty on articles sold.

Medals to be prepared at mint.

SEC. 5. That medals with appropriate devices, emblems, and inscriptions commemorative of said Tennessee Centennial Exposition and of the awards to be made to exhibitors thereat, be prepared at some mint of the United States for the board of directors thereof, subject to the provisions of the fifty-second section of the coinage Act of eighteen hundred and ninety-three, upon the payment by the Tennessee Centennial Exposition Company of a sum not less than the cost thereof; and all the provisions, whether penal or otherwise, of said coinage Act against the counterfeiting or imitating of coins of the United States shall apply to the medals struck and issued under this Act.

Vol. 17, p. 432.
R. S., sec. 3551, p. 702.

Nonliability of the United States.

SEC. 6. That the United States shall in no manner and under no circumstances be liable for any bond, debt, contract, expenditure, expense, or liability of any kind whatever of the said Tennessee Centennial Exposition Company, its officers, agents, servants, or employees, or incident to or growing out of said exposition, nor for any amount whatever in excess of the one hundred and thirty thousand dollars herein authorized; and the heads of the Executive Departments, the Smithsonian Institution and National Museum, and the United States Fish Commission, and the board of management herein authorized, their officers, agents, servants, or employees, shall in no manner and under no circumstances expend or create any liability of any kind for any sum in excess of the appropriations herein made, or create any deficiency.

Restriction on Commission, etc.

Availability of appropriation.

SEC. 7. That the appropriation herein made shall take effect when the Secretary of the Treasury shall be satisfied that the solvent appropriations made by the State of Tennessee, its counties and cities, and by individuals or companies to said centennial exposition, together with solvent subscriptions to the stock of the Centennial Company

made by the State, its counties and cities, and by private corporations and by individuals, shall amount to at least the sum of one-half million of dollars.

Approved, December 22, 1896.

CHAP. 2.—An Act Making appropriations for the payment of invalid and other pensions of the United States for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, and for other purposes. December 22, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the payment of pensions for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, and for other purposes, namely: Pensions appropriations.

For army and navy pensions, as follows: For invalids, widows, minor children, dependent relatives, army nurses, and all other pensioners who are now borne on the rolls, or who may hereafter be placed thereon, under the provisions of any and all Acts of Congress, one hundred and forty million dollars: *Provided*, That the appropriation aforesaid for navy pensions shall be paid from the income of the navy pension fund, so far as the same may be sufficient for that purpose: *Provided further*, That the amount paid to each of the several classes of pensioners shall be accounted for separately. Invalid, etc., pensions. *Provisos.* Navy pensions. Accounts.

For fees and expenses of examining surgeons for services rendered within the fiscal year eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, seven hundred thousand dollars. And each member of each examining board shall, as now authorized by law, receive the sum of two dollars for the examination of each applicant whenever five or a less number shall be examined on any one day, and one dollar for the examination of each additional applicant on such day: *Provided*, That if twenty or more applicants appear on one day, no fewer than twenty shall, if practicable, be examined on said day, and that if fewer examinations be then made, twenty or more having appeared, then there shall be paid for the first examinations made on the next examination day the fee of one dollar only until twenty examinations shall have been made: *Provided further*, That no fee shall be paid to any member of an examining board unless personally present and assisting in the examination of applicant: *Provided*, That the report of such examining surgeons shall specifically state the rating which in their judgment the applicant is entitled to. Examining surgeons. Fees, etc. *Provisos.* Examinations. No fee unless service rendered. Rating.

For salaries of eighteen agents for the payment of pensions, at four thousand dollars each, seventy-two thousand dollars. Agents' salaries.

For clerk hire, four hundred and thirty thousand dollars: *Provided*, That the amount of clerk hire for each agency shall be apportioned as nearly as practicable in proportion to the number of pensioners paid at each agency, and the salaries paid shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. Clerk hire. *Proviso.* Apportionment.

For fuel, two hundred and fifty dollars. Fuel.

For lights, five hundred dollars. Lights.

For stationery and other necessary expenses, thirty-five thousand dollars. Stationery, etc.

For rents, twenty-six thousand one hundred and thirty dollars. Rents.

Approved, December 22, 1896.

CHAP. 3.—An Act Making appropriations to supply urgent deficiencies in the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, and for prior years, and for other purposes. December 22, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury Urgent deficiencies appropriations.