

established:) and the acts of the presidents aforesaid shall be countersigned by the cashiers of those banks respectively.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to notify the President of the Bank of the United States, that the duties now performed by the commissioners of loans will be transferred to the Bank of the United States, and he shall direct the commissioners of loans and the agents for military pensions, where there is no commissioner, respectively, in the several states, to deliver to the president of the Bank of the United States, or to the president of a branch thereof, or to the president of such state bank as the Bank of the United States may employ, on such day or days as he may designate, the register, and all the records and papers of their respective offices; and it shall be the duty of the said commissioners of loans and agents for pensioners to comply with the said direction, and also to take duplicate receipts for the delivery of the records and papers herein described, one of which shall be transmitted, without delay, to the Secretary of the Treasury: *Provided, however*, that the Secretary of the Treasury may designate such time before the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, for the performance of the duties aforesaid, as the public convenience will permit; *And provided also*, That this act shall not be construed to extend to any agent for military pensions in any state where there is no bank established by law.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the office of commissioner of loans, upon the delivery of the records and papers, as herein required, to the Bank of the United States, or its branches, or to the state banks employed by the Bank of the United States in those states where there may be no branch, shall be, and hereby is, abolished; and the pay and emoluments of the said commissioners of loans, and the clerks and persons employed by them, after such delivery, shall respectively cease and determine.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the act, entitled "An act for the prompt settlement of public accounts," shall commence, and be in force, on and after the third day of this instant, March, any thing in the aforesaid act to the contrary notwithstanding.

APPROVED, March 3, 1817.

CHAP. XXXIX.—*An Act to regulate the trade in plaster of Paris.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That, from and after the fourth day of July next, no plaster of Paris, the production of any country, or its dependencies, from which the vessels of the United States are not permitted to bring the same article, shall be imported into the United States in any foreign vessel. And all plaster of Paris imported, or attempted to be imported, into the United States, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, and the vessel in which the same may be imported, or attempted to be imported, together with the cargo, tackle, apparel, and furniture, shall be forfeited to the United States; and such plaster of Paris, vessel and cargo, shall be liable to be seized, prosecuted, and condemned, in like manner, and under the same regulations, restrictions, and provisions, as have been heretofore established for the recovery, collection, and distribution, and remission, of forfeitures to the United States by the several revenue laws.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall continue and be in force five years from the thirty-first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen: *Provided, nevertheless*, That if any foreign nation or its dependencies, which have now in force regulations on the subject of the trade in plaster of Paris, prohibiting the exportation there-

The Secretary of the Treasury to notify the President of the Bank of the United States, &c.

Proviso; as to the time, &c.

Proviso; as to states where no banks are established by law.

Office of commissioner of loans abolished, &c.

An act for the prompt settlement of public accounts in force from the 3d of March, 1817.

Act of March 3, 1817, ch. 45.

STATUTE II.

March 3, 1817.

[Obsolete.]

Importation of plaster prohibited in foreign vessels from countries whence vessels of the United States are not allowed to bring it.

This act to be in force for five years.

Proviso; a foreign nation discontinuing

prohibitory regulations, the restrictions imposed by the act to cease with respect to that nation.

of to certain ports of the United States, shall discontinue such regulations, the President of the United States is hereby authorized to declare that fact by his proclamation, and the restrictions imposed by this act shall, from the date of such proclamation, cease and be discontinued in relation to the nation, or its dependencies, discontinuing such regulations.

APPROVED, March 3, 1817.

STATUTE II.

March 3, 1817.

Act of Feb. 26, 1803, ch. 9. Ships' papers to be produced to the collector before entry.

The papers to be deposited with the consul of the nation within forty-eight hours.

Fine in case of non-compliance. Proviso; as to foreign nations in whose ports American consuls are not allowed to have custody of papers according to the act mentioned.

1803, ch. 9. Consul not to deliver the papers to the master until he produces a clearance.

Consuls offending to be fined.

CHAP. XL.—*An Act authorizing the deposit of the papers of foreign vessels, with the consul of their respective nations.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the register, or other document in lieu thereof, together with the clearance and other papers, granted by the officers of the customs to any foreign ship or vessel, at her departure from the port or place from which she may have arrived, shall, previous to entry in any port of the United States, be produced to the collector with whom such entry is to be made. And it shall be the duty of the master or commander, within forty-eight hours after such entry, to deposit the said papers with the consul or vice-consul of the nation to which the vessel belongs, and to deliver to the collector the certificate of such consul or vice-consul, that the said papers have been so deposited; and any master, or commander, as aforesaid, who shall fail to comply with this regulation, shall, upon conviction thereof in any court of competent jurisdiction, be fined in a sum not less than five hundred dollars, nor exceeding two thousand dollars; *Provided,* That this act shall not extend to the vessels of foreign nations in whose ports American consuls are not permitted to have the custody and possession of the register and other papers of vessels entering the ports of such nation, according to the provisions of the second section of the act supplementary to the act "concerning consuls and vice-consuls, and for the further protection of American seamen," passed the twenty-eighth of February, one thousand eight hundred and three.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall not be lawful for any foreign consul to deliver to the master or commander of any foreign vessel the register and other papers deposited with him pursuant to the provisions of this act, until such master or commander shall produce to him a clearance in due form from the collector of the port where such vessel has been entered; and any consul offending against the provisions of this act shall, upon conviction thereof before the Supreme Court of the United States, be fined at the discretion of the court in a sum not less than five hundred dollars, nor exceeding five thousand dollars.

APPROVED, March 3, 1817.

STATUTE II.

March 3, 1817.

[Obsolete.]

Decayed furniture to be sold, and the proceeds and 20,000 dolls. additional appropriated for furnishing the President's house anew.

CHAP. LXI.—*An Act to provide for furnishing the house of the President of the United States.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That after the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized and empowered, to cause to be sold such articles furnished by the United States for the President's household, as may be decayed, out of repair, or unfit for use; and that the proceeds of sales, and so much of a sum not exceeding twenty thousand dollars, in addition thereto, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, as the President of the United States may judge necessary, be, and hereby are, appropriated for the accommodation of