

cargo shall have been taken on board, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That when any goods, wares, or merchandise, shall hereafter be imported from the province of Lower Canada into the United States, in any steamboat on lake Champlain, and the said goods, wares, and merchandise, shall have been duly entered, the duties thereon paid, or secured, at the office of the collector of any district adjoining lake Champlain, it shall be lawful to land such goods, wares, or merchandise, in the same, or any other, district adjoining said lake Champlain, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

As to landing goods brought in steamboats from Canada on lake Champlain.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That in any action or prosecution against any person as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for such person to plead the general issue, and give this act, and any special matter in evidence. And if in any suit the plaintiff is non-suit, or judgment pass against him, the defendant shall recover double costs.

General issue, this act, &c. in evidence, &c.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall continue in force for the term of four years, from and after the third day of March next, and no longer.

This act in force for four years, &c.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That every collector of the customs shall have authority, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury, to employ within his district such number of proper persons, as deputy collectors of the customs, as he shall judge necessary, who are hereby declared to be officers of the customs; and the said deputy collectors, before they enter on the duties of their offices, shall take and subscribe, before the collector appointing them, or before some magistrate within their respective districts, authorized by law to administer oaths, the following oath or affirmation, to wit: "I, _____, having been appointed deputy collector of the customs, within and for the district of _____, do solemnly, sincerely, and truly, swear (or affirm, as the case may be,) that I will diligently and faithfully execute the duties of the said office of deputy collector, and will use my best endeavours to prevent, and detect, frauds and violations against the laws of the United States: I further swear (or affirm) that I will support the constitution of the United States."

Collectors may employ deputies, &c.

Form of the oath to be taken by deputies.

APPROVED, March 3, 1817.

STATUTE II.

March 3, 1817.

CHAP. CX.—*An Act to amend the act "authorizing the payment for property lost, captured, or destroyed by the enemy, while in the military service of the United States, and for other purposes," passed the ninth of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the ninth section of the act, entitled "An act authorizing the payment for property lost, captured, or destroyed by the enemy, while in the military service of the United States, and for other purposes," passed on the ninth of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, shall be construed to extend only to houses or other buildings, occupied by an order of an officer or agent of the United States as a place of deposit for military or naval stores, or as barracks for the military forces of the United States; and that, in acting on all claims arising under the aforesaid ninth section, as well those whereon commissions are now returned, and remain undecided, as those on which commissions may be hereafter executed, it shall be the duty of the commissioner, appointed in virtue of the act aforesaid, carefully to examine and investigate the same, and to report the facts in such case to Congress as soon as may be, that such provision may be made for the relief of the respective claimants as shall be deemed just and proper.

Act of April 9, 1816, ch. 40. Restriction as to ninth section of the act referred to.

Act of April 20, 1818, ch. 124.

Commissioner to investigate, &c. report facts to Congress, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioner shall, in

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Commissions to be awarded in cases above 200 dolls., &c.

Proviso; as to new commission where facts may not be sufficiently disclosed, &c.

Compensation for horses, mules, wagons, &c.

Provisions of this and former act extended to property lost, &c. in war with Indian tribes, &c.

Claims of 200 dolls. and upwards to be revised by the Secretary of War, &c.

all cases in which the claim to compensation or indemnity shall exceed the sum of two hundred dollars, award a commission to some one or more discreet commissioners, near the places where the witnesses reside, who shall, before they proceed to act, take an oath, or affirmation, before some officer authorized by law to administer the same, that they will faithfully and impartially execute the duties assigned to them in said commission, to the best of their judgment; and the said commissioner shall accompany said commission with directions as to the examination of witnesses, on oath or affirmation, which the said commissioner, or commissioners, so acting, are hereby authorized to administer; which said commission, when executed, together with the examinations taken in pursuance thereof, shall be enclosed, sealed, and returned by mail, to the office of the said commissioner: *Provided, however,* That in acting on examinations, taken by virtue of the act to which this is an amendment, the said commissioner shall be authorized, in all cases where he shall adjudge the facts not to be sufficiently disclosed to allow a just decision between the claimants and the United States, to award a new commission as aforesaid, and, also, in all cases in which the said commissioner shall deem it proper to appoint an agent to act in behalf of the United States, in executing said commissions; and it shall be the duty of the commissioner, or commissioners, taking evidence in any case, to make inquiry whether any evidence may be had which may be favourable to the interest of the United States, and to take such evidence, and transmit the same to the said commissioner in like manner.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That any person, in the late war aforesaid, who has sustained damage by the loss of any horse, mule, ox, wagon, cart, boat, sleigh, or harness, while such property was in the military service of the United States, either by impressment or contract, except in cases where the risk to which the property would be exposed was agreed to be incurred by the owner, if it shall appear that such loss was without any fault or negligence on the part of the owner, shall be allowed and paid the value thereof.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the provisions of this act, and the act to which it is an amendment, shall be, and are hereby, extended to cases of property lost, captured, or destroyed, in the wars with the Indian tribes, subsequent to the eighteenth day of February, and prior to the first day of September, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, in the same manner as if lost, captured, or destroyed, in the late war with Great Britain.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That all claims allowed by said commissioner, of two hundred dollars or upwards, shall be revised by the Secretary of War, on a statement of the facts made to him by the aforesaid commissioner, and may be confirmed or rejected: and the amount of all claims allowed by the aforesaid commissioner less than two hundred dollars, and those of two hundred dollars and upwards, if confirmed by the Secretary of War, shall be paid in the manner prescribed in the tenth and fourteenth sections of the act to which this act is an amendment.

APPROVED, March 3, 1817.

STATUTE II.

March 3, 1817.

CHAP. CXI.—*An Act authorizing a subscription for the printing of the tenth volume of public documents.*

500 copies of the 10th volume of public documents to be subscribed for.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of State be, and he is hereby, authorized to subscribe for, and receive, for the use and disposal of Congress, five hundred copies of the tenth volume of public documents, proposed to be printed by Thomas B. Wait and Sons. The aforesaid volume to be delivered in strong leather binding, at the Depart-