

courts of the said territory; and they shall, until the legislature thereof shall otherwise direct, be selected in such manner as the judges of the said courts shall respectively prescribe, so as to be most conducive to an impartial trial, and to be least burthensome to the inhabitants of the said territory.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to import or bring into the said territory, from any port or place without the limits of the United States, or cause or procure to be so imported or brought, or knowingly to aid or assist in so importing or bringing, any slave or slaves. And every person so offending, and being thereof convicted before any court within the said territory, having competent jurisdiction, shall forfeit and pay, for each and every slave so imported or brought, the sum of three hundred dollars, one moiety for the use of the United States, and the other moiety for the use of the person or persons who shall sue for the same; and every slave so imported or brought shall thereupon become entitled to, and receive, his or her freedom.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the laws in force in the said territory, at the commencement of this act, and not inconsistent with the provisions thereof, shall continue in force until altered, modified, or repealed, by the legislature.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the citizens of the said territory shall be entitled to one delegate to Congress, for the said territory, who shall possess the same powers heretofore granted to the delegates from the several territories of the United States. The said delegate shall be elected by such description of persons, at such times, and under such regulations, as the governor and legislative council may, from time to time, ordain and direct.

APPROVED, March 30, 1822.

selection of them.

Importation of slaves prohibited.

Under a penalty of 300 dollars from each person, for every slave.

Present territorial laws in force till altered.

Citizens of the territory entitled to a delegate, &c.

The persons by whom, and the times at which, &c., the delegate may be elected.

STATUTE I.

March 30, 1822.

CHAP. XIV.—*An Act to authorize the state of Illinois to open a canal through the public lands, to connect the Illinois river with Lake Michigan.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the state of Illinois be, and is hereby, authorized to survey and mark, through the public lands of the United States, the route of the canal connecting the Illinois river with the southern bend of Lake Michigan; and ninety feet of land on each side of said canal shall be for ever reserved from any sale to be made by the United States, except in the cases hereinafter provided for, and the use thereof for ever shall be, and the same is hereby, vested in the said state for a canal, and for no other purpose whatever; on condition, however, that if the said state does not survey and direct by law said canal to be opened, and return a complete map thereof to the Treasury Department, within three years from and after the passing of this act; or if the said canal be not completed, suitable for navigation, within twelve years thereafter; or if said ground shall ever cease to be occupied by, and used for, a canal, suitable for navigation; the reservation and grant hereby made shall be void and of none effect: *Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared*, That nothing in this act contained, or that shall be done in pursuance thereof, shall be deemed or construed to imply any obligation on the part of the United States to appropriate any money to defray the expenses of surveying or opening said canal: *Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared*, That the said canal, when completed, shall be, and for ever remain, a public highway for the use of the government of the United States, free from any toll or other charge whatever, for any property of

Act of March 2, 1827, ch. 51.

Illinois authorized to survey and mark through public lands, the route of a canal, connecting Illinois river with the southern bend of Lake Michigan, and 90 feet on each side reserved and vested in the state for a canal on condition, &c.

Provide; no obligation on the part of the United States to appropriate money, &c.

Provide; canal always a public highway, free of toll to

the United States.

Sections through which the canal passes reserved until, &c.

The state may use necessary adjacent materials without waste.

STATUTE I.

March 30, 1822.

Vessels having Spanish registers on the 10th July, 1821, belonging wholly to resident citizens or to inhabitants on the 10th July, 1821, the master being a citizen or inhabitant, may be registered, &c. and then deemed a ship or vessel of the United States, &c.

Proviso: as to collectors varying forms of oaths of registry, &c.

Proviso: former register, &c. to be first surrendered, and oath of allegiance taken.

Form of the oath.

Inhabitants on July 10, 1821, taking the oath, &c., entitled to own ships, &c.

For 12 years from the 22d of May, 1821, Spanish vessels

the United States, or persons in their service, passing through the same.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That every section of land through which said canal route may pass, shall be, and the same is hereby, reserved from future sale, until hereafter specially directed by law: and the said state is hereby authorized and permitted, without waste, to use any materials on the public lands adjacent to said canal, that may be necessary for its construction.

APPROVED, March 30, 1822.

CHAP. XV.—*An Act concerning the commerce and navigation of Florida. (a)*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That any ship or vessel possessed of, and sailing under, a Spanish register, on the tenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one, belonging, and continuing to belong, wholly to a citizen or citizens of the United States then residing within the territories ceded to the United States by the treaty of the twenty-second of February, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, between the United States and the King of Spain, the ratifications of which were exchanged on the twenty-second of February, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one, or to any person or persons being, on the said tenth day of July, an inhabitant or inhabitants of the said ceded territory, and who continue to reside therein, and of which the master is a citizen of the United States, or an inhabitant as aforesaid, may be registered, enrolled, and licensed, in the manner prescribed by law; and being so registered, enrolled, and licensed, shall be denominated and deemed a ship or vessel of the United States, and entitled to the same privileges and benefits: *Provided*, That it shall be lawful for the collector to whom application shall be made for a certificate of registry, enrolment, or license, by any citizen or inhabitant as aforesaid, to make such variations in the forms of the oaths, certificates, and licenses, as shall render them applicable to the cases herein intended to be provided for: *And provided also*, That every such inhabitant, applying as aforesaid, shall, prior to his being entitled to receive such certificate of registry, enrolment, or license, deposit, with the collector, the register and other papers under which such ship or vessel had been navigated; and also take and subscribe, before the collector, (who is hereby authorized to administer the same,) the following oath: "*I, A B, do swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the United States of America, and that I do entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the King of Spain.*"

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the inhabitants of said ceded territory, who were residents thereof on the said tenth day of July, and who shall take the said oath, and who continue to reside therein, or citizens of the United States resident therein, shall be entitled to all the benefits and privileges of owning ships or vessels of the United States, to all intents and purposes, as if they were resident citizens of the United States.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That during the term of twelve years, to commence three months after the twenty-second day of February, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one, being the day of the exchange of the ratifications of said treaty, Spanish ships or vessels, coming

(a) See notes of the acts of Congress relating to the territory of Florida, Act of March 30, 1822, ch. 13.