AUTHENTICATED U.S. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION GPO

equity in partition proceedings between private persons. Whenever in such suit the court shall order a sale of the property or any part thereof the Attorney-General of the United States may, in his discretion, bid for the same in behalf of the United States. If the United States shall be the purchaser, the amount of the purchase money shall be paid from the Treasury of the United States upon a warrant drawn by the Secretary of the Treasury on the requisition of the Attorney-General.

Sale of property.
—bid by the United States.

Approved, May 17, 1898.

CHAP. 340.—An Act Declaring the Federal jail at the city of Fort Smith, Arkansas, a national prison for certain purposes.

May 17, 1898.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Federal jail at the city of Fort Smith, Arkansas, in addition to the purposes for which it is now used, is hereby declared to be a national prison, for the confinement of persons convicted of crimes and misdemeanors in the United States courts and commissioners' courts in the Indian Territory, in cases where the term of imprisonment does not exceed one year, admission into said prison to be under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Attorney-General of the United States. And said jail may also be used for the care and confinement of United States prisoners in the Texarkana division of the western district of Arkansas.

Fort Smith, Ark.
Federal jail declared a national prison.
—admission into.
—additional use.

Approved, May 17, 1898.

CHAP. 341.—An Act To provide for the disposition of abandoned imported merchandise.

May 17, 1898.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section twenty-three of the Act of June tenth, eighteen hundred and ninety, is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Customs.
Abandoned imported merchandise.
Vol. 26, p. 140.

"SEC. 23. That no allowance for damage to goods, wares, and merchandise imported into the United States shall hereafter be made in the estimation and liquidation of duties thereon; but the importer thereof may, within ten days after entry, abandon to the United States all or any portion of goods, wares, and merchandise included in any invoice, and be relieved from the payment of the duties on the portion so abandoned: *Provided*, That the portion so abandoned shall amount to ten per centum or over of the total value or quantity of the invoice; and the property so abandoned shall be sold by public auction or otherwise disposed of for the account and credit of the United States under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe. All merchandise so abandoned by the importer thereof shall be delivered by such importer at such place within the port of arrival as the chief officer of customs may direct, and on the failure of the importer to comply with the directions of the collector in this respect the abandoned merchandise shall be disposed of by the collector at the expense of such importer."

No allowance for damage.
—abandonment and relief.
Proviso.
Value of abandoned goods.
—sale.
—place of delivery by importer.
—failure to deliver.

Approved, May 17, 1898.

CHAP. 342.—An Act To organize a volunteer signal corps.

May 18, 1898.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is hereby authorized to organize a volunteer signal corps, for service during the existing war, which corps shall receive the same pay and allowances as are authorized by law for the Signal Corps of the Army.

Army.
Volunteer signal corps.
—pay.