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otherwise provide a suitable site, and cause to be erected thereon a substantial and commodious building for the use and accommodation of the post-office and other offices of the Government at Elgin, Illinois.

Limit of cost.

The site and building thereon, when completed upon plans and specifications to be previously made and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, shall not exceed in cost the sum of one hundred thousand dollars; nor shall any site be purchased until estimates for the erection of a building which will furnish sufficient accommodations for the transaction of the public business, and which shall not exceed in cost the balance of the sum herein limited after the site shall have been purchased and paid for, shall have been approved by the Secretary of the Treasury; and no purchase of site nor place for said building shall be approved by the Secretary of the Treasury involving an expenditure exceeding the said sum of one hundred thousand dollars for site and building. And the site purchased shall leave the building independent and unexposed to danger from fire in adjacent buildings by an open space of not less than forty feet, including streets and alleys.

Fire space.

Approved, March 2, 1899.

March 2, 1899.

CHAP. 337.—An Act To supplement and amend an Act entitled "An Act for the erection of a new custom-house in the city of New York, and for other purposes," approved March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-one.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to acquire, by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, for customs purposes, the premises heretofore selected by the Secretary of the Treasury, under the Act of September fourteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, as a site for a custom-house building, and known as the Bowling Green site, in the city of New York and State of New York, and the sum of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, in addition to the balance in the Treasury remaining unexpended under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved September fourteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, entitled "An Act for the erection of an appraiser's warehouse in the city of New York, and for other purposes," is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available for such purpose.

New York.
Purchase of site and erection of custom-house authorized.

Vol. 25, p. 479.

Cost of site.

SEC. 2. That upon the acquisition of said site the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause to be erected thereon a substantial, commodious, and fireproof building for the purposes of a custom-house, at a cost not to exceed three million dollars, exclusive of the cost of the site, and for the preparation of the plans and the commencement of the work the sum of one million dollars is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available for this purpose; and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to contract for the completion of said building, including heating and ventilating apparatus, fireproof vaults, elevators, and approaches complete, within the limit of cost prescribed by law, subject to the appropriations which may hereafter be made by Congress.

Limit of cost for building.

Contracts authorized.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of the Treasury may, in his discretion, invite not less than five architects to compete for the preparation and furnishing of plans, drawings, and specifications, and the local supervision of the construction of said new custom-house building, under the direction and general supervision of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Plans, etc.

SEC. 4. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to sell at public or private sale, to the highest bidder, after due advertisement, but for not less than three million dollars, the present custom-house property in the city of New York, bounded by Wall, William, and Hanover streets, and Exchange place, and to deposit the proceeds of the sale, after the payment of the usual incidental expenses, in the United States Treasury as miscellaneous receipts derived from

Sale of present custom-house property.

—lease of, pending completion of building authorized.

the sale of Government property; and in case of such sale the Secretary of the Treasury shall lease said premises from the purchaser or purchasers thereof, at a rental which shall not exceed four per centum per annum on the purchase price, for use as a custom-house until the new custom-house shall be ready for occupancy, upon such terms as he may deem advantageous, and such sale shall be subject to such right of lease; and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to accept the said purchase price in several payments, from time to time, as he may deem most advantageous: *Provided, however*, That the use, occupation, and possession of said property shall not be surrendered until the new custom-house is ready for occupation and final payment is fully made.

Proviso. Final surrender.

Appropriation reimbursable.

SEC. 5. That the appropriation of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, made in section one of this Act, in addition to the balance in the Treasury remaining unexpended under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved September fourteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, for the acquisition of the Bowling Green site, and the further sum of one million dollars for the preparation of plans and the commencement of the work of construction, appropriated in section two of this Act, shall be reimbursed out of the proceeds of the sale of the present custom-house property, provided for in section four of this Act, when such proceeds have been covered into the Treasury.

Repeal.

SEC. 6. That all Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

Approved, March 2, 1899.

March 2, 1899.

CHAP. 338.—An Act For the erection of a public building in the city of Blair, Nebraska.

Blair, Nebr. Public building authorized.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to purchase or otherwise provide a suitable site and to contract for the erection and completion thereon of a substantial and commodious building, with fireproof vaults therein, for the use and accommodation of the post-office and other offices of the Government at Blair, Nebraska. The site and building thereon, when completed upon plans and specifications to be previously made and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, shall not exceed in cost the sum of forty-three thousand dollars; nor shall any site be purchased until estimates for the erection of a building which will furnish sufficient accommodations for the transaction of the public business, and which shall not exceed in cost the balance of the sum herein limited after the site shall have been purchased and paid for, shall have been approved by the Secretary of the Treasury; and no purchase of site nor place for said building shall be approved by the Secretary of the Treasury involving an expenditure exceeding the said sum of forty-three thousand dollars for site and building; and the site purchased shall leave the building independent and unexposed to danger from fire in adjacent buildings by an open space of not less than forty feet, including streets and alleys: *Provided*, That no part of said sum shall be expended until a valid title to the said site shall be vested in the United States, nor until the State of Nebraska shall cede to the United States exclusive jurisdiction over the same during the time the United States shall remain the owner thereof.

Limit of cost.

Fire space.

Proviso. Title, etc.

Approved, March 2, 1899.

March 2, 1899.

CHAP. 339.—An Act To provide for the purchase of sites for public buildings in the cities of Hastings and Norfolk, in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes.

Hastings and Norfolk, Nebr. Public buildings authorized.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to acquire title,