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grant, was tried by the United States Court of Private Land Claims, created for the settlement of titles to such grants, in the years eighteen hundred and ninety-five and eighteen hundred and ninety-six; and

Whereas in the hearing of said contest before said court the alleged grantees under said grant were successful and their title thereto by said trial court confirmed, and immediately thereafter the said alleged grantees, for large and valuable considerations, sold to numbers of people, citizens and bona fide settlers on said lands, in tracts of less than forty acres to each, and said settlers, then believing that they had a bona fide title to said lands sold, made lasting and valuable improvements and permanent homes thereon; and

Whereas the Government of the United States appealed said cause from the decision of said court below, and on said appeal the said decision of the said court below was reversed, and the title to said grant in said alleged grantees adjudged to be void, and that the said lands included within the boundaries of said grant, and sold as aforesaid, belonged to the United States; and if said settlers, citizens, and occupants of said lands who so purchased the same as aforesaid be not permitted to retain the same, and pay the Government therefor, they will be deprived of their homes, at ruinous consequences to them: Therefore,

Settlers on, who purchased from grant claimants may retain and repurchase land, etc.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That where such persons in good faith and for valuable considerations purchased from the grant claimants prior to May twenty-third, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, portions of the land covered by the said grant, and have occupied and improved the same, such persons may, within six months from and after the passage of this Act, or within three months after the said lands shall be restored to entry, purchase the same at the price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, upon making proof of the facts required by this Act under regulations to be provided by the Commissioner of the General Land Office and approved by the Secretary of the Interior, joint entries being admissible where two or more persons have purchased lands on the same forty-acre tract: *Provided*, That no one person shall purchase more than forty acres, and no purchase shall be allowed for a less quantity than that contained in the smallest legal subdivision.

Proviso. —limit.

Entries under homestead or desert-land laws.

SEC. 2. That where persons duly qualified to make entry under the homestead or desert-land laws have occupied any of said lands with the intention of entering the same under the homestead or desert-land laws, such persons shall be allowed three months from and after the passage of this Act, or after the said lands shall be restored to entry, within which to make their entries, and the fact that such persons have impoved or reclaimed such desert lands shall be no bar to their making such entries.

Approved, January 14, 1901.

January 14, 1901.

CHAP. 13.—An Act To amend an Act approved June first, anno Domini nineteen hundred, entitled "An Act to create the southern division of the southern district of Iowa for judicial purposes, and to fix the time and place for holding court therein."

Iowa southern judicial district.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section one of an Act entitled "An Act to create the southern division of the southern district of Iowa for judicial purposes, and to fix the time and place for holding court therein," approved June first, ninteeen hundred, be amended by striking out the words "on the third Monday of May and the fourth Monday of September of each year" and inserting in lieu thereof the following words, to wit: "on the fourth Tuesday in March and the third Tuesday in October of each year."

Terms of court at Creston changed.
Ante, p. 249.

SEC. 2. That section two of said Act is amended by adding to the said section two the words "and all civil suits now pending in other divisions of said circuit court for said southern district which, if commenced after the passage hereof, would be brought in said southern division shall, upon the application of either party, be removed for trial, judgment, or decree to said southern division." Where suits to be brought.

Approved, January 14, 1901.

CHAP. 75.—An Act To provide for the establishment of the intersection of the true one hundredth meridian with Red River, to ascertain the amount of taxes collected by the State of Texas in what was formerly known as Greer County and the expenditures made on account of said county by said State, and for other purposes. January 15, 1901.

Whereas there was a controversy of long standing between the United States and the State of Texas as to the ownership of the territory formerly known as Greer County, Texas, which was finally determined in favor of the United States by decree of the Supreme Court of the United States, March sixteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-six, in a suit in equity brought by the United States against the State of Texas in that court; and Greer County, Tex. Preamble.

Whereas the treaty between the United States and Spain which was ratified February nineteenth, eighteen hundred and twenty-one, fixed the boundary between the United States and Spain, and this became the boundary between the United States and the Republic of Texas and the State of Texas, successively; and

Whereas it was provided by said treaty that the boundary line "west of the Mississippi shall begin on the Gulf of Mexico, at the mouth of the river Sabine, in the sea, continuing north along the western bank of that river to the thirty-second degree of latitude; thence by a line due north to the degree of latitude where it strikes the Rio Roxo of Natchitoches, or Red River; then following the course of the Rio Roxo westward to the degree of longitude one hundred west from London and twenty-three from Washington; then crossing the said Red River and running thence by a line due north to the river Arkansas, and so forth;" and

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States in said cause adjudged that the words of said treaty "then following the course of the Rio Roxo westward to the degree of longitude one hundred west from London and twenty-three from Washington; then crossing the said Red River," referred to the true one hundredth meridian astronomically located; and

Whereas the true intersection of said one hundredth meridian with Red River, or what, prior to said decision, was known sometime as the South Fork of Red River, or Prairie Dog Town Fork, has never been fixed by the United States and the State of Texas, acting together and in the manner provided by said treaty, nor was said true intersection fixed by the decree in said cause; and

Whereas the said territory formerly known as Greer County was formed into a county in eighteen hundred and sixty, and duly organized as a county in eighteen hundred and eighty-six, under the laws of the State of Texas, and continued as such organized county until the decree aforesaid, with all the rights, duties, powers, and privileges of an organized county of said State; and

Whereas during the period of time the State of Texas claimed ownership of and exercised jurisdiction over said territory the said State of Texas patented lands situated in other parts of the State to said Greer County, as one of the counties within the jurisdiction thereof, for school purposes, and which lands said Greer County used and alienated and appropriated the proceeds thereof exclusively for school purposes within its limits; and