Certain purchasers entitled, in certain cases, to patents.

or assignees of such of the public lands as were sold on a credit for a less price than fourteen dollars per acre, and on which a further credit has been taken under any of the laws passed for the relief of purchasers of public lands, and which lands have reverted to the United States on account of the balance due thereon not having been paid or discharged, agreeably to said relief laws, shall be entitled to patents, without further payment, in all instances where one dollar and twenty-five cents, or a greater sum, per acre, shall have been paid; or where payment to that amount shall not have been heretofore made, such purchasers, their heirs or assignees, shall have the right of pre-emption until the fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, by paying into the proper land office such sum in addition to the amount heretofore paid, as will, together, amount to the minimum price of the lands of the United States at the time of such payment.

In other cases to pre-emption.

Certain occupants to have pre-emption until July 4, 1831.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all such occupants of relinquished land as are contemplated and described in the second section of the above recited act, to which this is a supplement, as are in possession of land which was sold on credit for a less sum than fourteen dollars per acre, shall have the right of pre-emption of the same lands, according to the legal subdivisions of sections, not exceeding the quantity of two quarter sections, in contiguous tracts or contiguous to other lands held by such occupants respectively, until the fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, upon their paying into a proper office for all land originally sold for a price not exceeding five dollars per acre, one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre; and for all lands which originally sold for more than five dollars, and not exceeding fourteen dollars per acre, the amount of the first instalment heretofore paid; such occupants first proving their possession, respectively in conformity to the provisions of the said act, to which this is a supplement, in the manner which has been prescribed by the commissioner of the general land office, pursuant to the provisions thereof: *Provided, however*, That in all cases where proof of possession has been already made under said recited act, proof shall not again be required, unless the applicant choose to take other land than that to which such proof applies.

Prices.

Proof of possession.

Proviso.

Town property.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the provisions of this act shall extend to all town property of which the government has been proprietors, and not subsequently sold, when full payment has not been made: *Provided*, The original purchasers, or their assignees, pay into the proper land office, on or before the fourth of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, one half of the original purchase money without interest.

Approved, February 25, 1831.

Statute II.

Feb. 25, 1831.

Chap. XXXVI.—*An Act to provide for the adjustment of claims of persons entitled to indemnification under the convention between the United States and his majesty the King of Denmark, of the twenty-eighth March, eighteen hundred and thirty, and for the distribution among such claimants of the sums to be paid by the Danish government to that of the United States according to the stipulation of the said convention.*

Commissioners to meet, &c.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the commissioners who are or may be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, in pursuance of the third article of the convention between the United States of America and his majesty the King of Denmark, signed at Copenhagen the twenty-eighth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and thirty, shall meet at Washington city, in the District of Columbia, and, within the space of two years from the time of their first meeting, shall receive, examine, and

Claims to be decided on within two years.

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decide upon the amount and validity of all such claims as may be presented to them, and are provided for by the convention referred to, according to the merits of the several cases, and to justice, equity, and the law of nations, and according to the provisions of said convention.

Documents.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all records, documents, or other papers, which now are in, or hereafter, during the continuance of this commission, may come into the possession of the Department of State, in relation to such claims, shall be delivered to the commission aforesaid.

Day of first meeting.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners, or a majority of them, with their secretary, whose appointment is hereinafter provided for, shall convene in this city on the first Monday of April next, and shall proceed to execute the duties of their commission; and the Secretary of State shall be, and he is hereby, authorized and required forthwith, after the passing of this act, to give notice of the said intended meeting, to be published in one or more public gazettes in the city of Washington, and in such other public papers, published elsewhere in the United States, as he may designate.

Notice thereof.

Claims to be examined, &c.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners shall proceed immediately after their meeting in the city of Washington, with all convenient despatch, to arrange and docket the several claims, and to consider the evidence which shall have been, or which may be offered by the respective claimants, allowing such further time for the production of such further evidence as may be required, and as they shall think reasonable and just; and they shall thereupon proceed to determine the said claims, and to award distribution of the sums to be received by the United States from the King of Denmark under the stipulations of the convention aforesaid, among the several claimants according to their respective rights.

Time for producing evidence.

Powers to make rules.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners shall be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to make all needful rules and regulations, not contravening the laws of the land, the provisions of this act, or the provisions of the said convention, for carrying their said commission into full and complete effect.

Secretary.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint a secretary to the said commission.

Oath.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners and secretary shall severally take an oath for the faithful performance of the duties of their respective offices.

Compensation.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the compensation of the respective officers for whose appointment provision is made by this act shall not exceed the following sums: to each of the said commissioners at the rate of three thousand dollars per annum, and to the secretary of the board at the rate of two thousand dollars per annum; and the President of the United States shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to make such provision for the contingent expenses of the said commission as shall appear to him reasonable and proper; and the said salaries and expenses shall be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Contingent expenses.

Money received from the Danish government.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That all moneys to be received from the Danish government under the convention aforesaid, shall be paid into the treasury of the United States, and shall constitute a fund for satisfying the awards of the commission provided for by this act.

Postage.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That all communications to or from the secretary of the board of commissioners on the business of the commission, shall pass by mail free of postage.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That as soon as the said commission shall be executed and completed, the records, documents, and all other papers in the possession of the commission or its officers, shall be deposited in the office of the Secretary of State.

Approved, February 25, 1831.