dria forever; and the Solicitor of the Treasury of the United States is hereby authorized and required, in the name and on the behalf of the United States, to make all the proper and necessary conveyances for that purpose.

The debt of the corporation of Alexandria not to be assumed by Congress.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That Congress will in no event assume and pay the debt, or any part thereof, now due by the corporation of the city of Alexandria.

Approved, July 9, 1846.

Chap. XXXVI. — *An Act to authorize the President of the United States to sell the reserved mineral Lands in the States of Illinois and Arkansas, and Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa, supposed to contain Lead Ore.*

July 11, 1846.

All the reserved lead mines and contiguous lands in Illinois, Arkansas, Wisconsin, and Iowa, to be exposed to sale.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President be, and he hereby is, authorized, as soon as practicable, to cause the reserved lead mines and contiguous lands in the State of Illinois and Arkansas, and Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa, belonging to the United States, to be exposed to sale, in the same manner that other public lands are authorized by law to be sold, except as hereinafter provided.

Six months' public notice to be given of such sales, with a brief description, &c.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That six months' notice of the times and places of said sales shall be given in such newspapers of general circulation, in such of the States as the President may think expedient, with a brief description of the mineral regions of the States of Illinois and Arkansas, and Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa, and of the lands to be offered for sale; showing the number and localities of the different mines now known, the probability of discovering others, the quality of the ore, the facilities of working it, the further facilities (if any) for manufactories of shot, sheet lead, and paints, and the means and expense of transporting the whole to the principal markets in the United States: *Provided*, That the said lands shall not be subject to the rights of preëmption until after the same have been offered at public sale and subject to private entry.

Proviso as to preëmption.

Any tract containing a mine or mines of lead ore to be sold in such legal subdivisions as will include such mine or mines.

No bid less than $2 50 per acre to be taken within one year.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That upon satisfactory proof, made to the register and receiver of the proper land office, that any tract or tracts of said lands contain a mine or mines of lead ore, actually discovered and being worked, then, and in that case, the same shall be sold in such legal subdivision or subdivisions as will include such mine or mines; and no bid shall be received therefor at a less rate than the sum of two dollars and fifty cents per acre; and if such tract or tracts shall not be sold at such public sale, at such price, nor shall be entered at private sale within twelve months thereafter, then the same shall be subject to sale as other lands: *Provided*, That no legal subdivision of any of said lands, upon which there may be an outstanding lease or leases from the Government of the United States, or their authorized agent, unexpired and undetermined, shall be sold until after the determination of such lease or leases by effluxion of time, voluntary surrender, or other legal extinguishment thereof.

Leased subdivisions not to be sold until expiration of lease.

Approved, July 11, 1846.

Chap. XXXVII. — *An Act to legalize certain Land Sales made at Chocchuma and Columbus, in the State of Mississippi, and to indemnify the Chickasaws therefor.*

July 15, 1846.

Patents to issue for such sales of land at Choc-

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it may and shall be lawful for patents to be issued, as in ordinary cases, for such

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