

CHAP. 23.—An act authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to offer a reward of twenty-five thousand dollars for rescuing or ascertaining the fate of the Greely expedition.

Apr. 17, 1884.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to make proclamation immediately, and cause said proclamation to be published and distributed as thoroughly as may be in such foreign ports as are interested in navigation and traffic in the Arctic seas, that the Government of the United States will pay a reward of twenty-five thousand dollars, to be equitably paid or distributed, to such ship or ships, person or persons, not in the military or naval service of the United States, as shall discover and rescue or satisfactorily ascertain the fate of the Greely expedition; but such proclamation shall not be made in terms that will involve the United States in any future liability or responsibility beyond said reward, or will induce unprepared vessels to incur extraordinary peril or risk. And the determination of the Secretary of the Navy as to the right of any person to said reward or a share thereof, shall be conclusive upon all persons.

Greely expedition, reward for discovery and rescue of.

Approved, April 17, 1884.

CPAP. 24.—An act to further suspend the operation of section fifty-five hundred and seventy-four of the Revised Statutes of the United States, title seventy-two, in relation to guano islands.

Apr. 18, 1884.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section fifty-five hundred and seventy-four, title seventy-two, of the Revised Statutes of the United States, be and the same is hereby, further suspended, as therein set forth, for the period of five years next from and after the passage of this act.

Guano Islands, R. S. 5574, 1080; suspended, etc.

Approved, April 18, 1884.

CHAP. 25.—An act to amend section twenty-five hundred and twenty-seven of the Revised Statutes, relating to the district of Gloucester.

Apr. 18, 1884.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the second clause of section twenty-five hundred and twenty-seven of the Revised Statutes, describing the district of Gloucester, is hereby amended by making the town of Rockport a port of delivery therein.

R. S. 2527, 495. Rockport created a port of delivery.

Approved, April 18, 1884.

CHAP. 26.—An act making it a felony for a person to falsely and fraudulently assume or pretend to be an officer or employee acting under authority of the United States or any Department or any officer thereof, and prescribing a penalty therefor.

April 18, 1884.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That every person who, with intent to defraud either the United States or any person, falsely assumes or pretends to be an officer or employee acting under the authority of the United States, or any Department, or any officer of the Government thereof, and who shall take upon himself to act as such, or who shall in such pretended character demand or obtain from any person or from the United States, or any Department, or any officer of the Government thereof, any money, paper, document, or other valuable thing, shall be

Persons assuming or pretending to act under authority of the U. S.

Penalty. deemed guilty of felony, and shall, on conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or imprisonment not longer than three years, or both said punishments, in the discretion of the court.

Approved, April 18, 1884.

April 23, 1884. CHAP. 27.—An act to increase the endowment of the University of Alabama from the public lands in said State.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That forty-six thousand and eighty acres of the public lands in Alabama are hereby granted to the State of Alabama, in addition to the lands reserved to said State by the acts approved April twentieth, eighteen hundred and eighteen, and March second, eighteen hundred and nineteen, for the benefit of the University of Alabama, to be applied, as far as may be necessary, to the erection of suitable buildings for said university and to the restoration of the library and scientific apparatus heretofore destroyed by fire, such application to be made in such manner as the legislature of said State may direct or may empower the trustees of said university to direct: *Provided*, That the State of Alabama shall pay the expenses of agents appointed by the governor thereof to select such lands, to be reimbursed out of the proceeds of the sales thereof.

University of Alabama. Increase of endowment from public lands, etc. 6 Stat., 350. 6 Stat., 383.

Proviso.

Agents to select lands, &c. SEC. 2. That the governor of Alabama may appoint one or more agents to select the lands granted in this act from any public lands within said State not included in some subsisting grant made by the United States; and such agent shall make report of such selections to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

Homestead entries, etc., a prior claim. SEC. 3. That the provisions of this act shall not apply to any legal subdivision of land to which the right of homestead entry or pre-emption shall have attached in favor of any person who is entitled to such homestead and pre-emption entries and who is occupying and claiming such subdivision of the public lands in Alabama at the time when such selections are approved by the Secretary of the Interior. And in cases where it is found that such claims are superior to the rights of the State of Alabama herein granted, the said State may select other lands in lieu thereof, and in like quantity, elsewhere in the said State, from the public lands of the United States, so as to make up, as nearly as may be, the total number of acres of land granted in this act to said State.

State to select other lands. SEC. 4. That when the selection of said lands are so made, and are approved by the Secretary of the Interior, the title to the same shall vest in the State of Alabama, to and for the use and benefit of said University of Alabama, to be applied first to the uses and purposes declared in the first section of this act and then to the endowment of said university, and to no other purpose whatever; and patents shall issue to said State for the lands so selected and approved. And the State of Alabama shall by law direct the sale of such lands, and the money arising from such sales shall be paid into the treasury of the State of Alabama; but no expenses that may be incurred in making such sales, after the selections of lands made under this act are confirmed by the Secretary of the Interior and are entered on the township maps of the proper land-offices, shall be paid by the United States.

Title to vest in State, when, for benefit of University of Alabama. SEC. 5. That the Secretary of the Interior is empowered to make all needful and proper regulations and rules for carrying this act into effect, and for the decision of all questions that may arise as to the right of the State of Alabama to any lands that may be claimed under the provisions of this act.

Secretary of Interior to carry provisions of act into effect.

Approved, April 23, 1884.