

STATUTE I.

April 24, 1820.

CHAP. LI.—*An Act making further provision for the sale of the public lands.*

Act of March 3, 1819, ch. 92.
Act of March 24, 1821, ch. 12.
Act of March 3, 1823, ch. 57.
Public sale of lands in half quarter sections, after 1st July, 1820.

At private sale, in entire, half, quarter, or half quarter, sections.

Act of Feb. 11, 1805, ch. 14.
Fractional sections, less than 160 acres, to be sold entire.

Proviso.

No credit on sales of public lands, after 1st July, 1820.

Purchasers at private sale to produce a receipt for the money before entry.

Price of lands 1 dollar 25 cts. per acre after 1st July, 1820.

No sales for less than 1 dollar 25 cts. per acre.

Lands offered at public sales, and unsold, subject to private sale, at 1 dollar 25 cts. per acre.
Exceptions.

Lands reverted, &c. to be offered at public, before private sales.

Sale of lands

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of July next, all the public lands of the United States, the sale of which is, or may be authorized by law, shall, when offered at public sale, to the highest bidder, be offered in half quarter sections; and when offered at private sale, may be purchased, at the option of the purchaser, either in entire sections, half sections, quarter sections, or half quarter sections; and in every case of the division of a quarter section, the line for the division thereof shall run north and south, and the corners and contents of half quarter sections which may thereafter be sold, shall be ascertained in the manner, and on the principles directed and prescribed by the second section of an act entitled, "An act concerning the mode of surveying the public lands of the United States," passed on the eleventh day of February, eighteen hundred and five; and fractional sections, containing one hundred and sixty acres, or upwards, shall, in like manner, as nearly as practicable, be sub-divided into half quarter sections, under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury; but fractional sections, containing less than one hundred and sixty acres, shall not be divided, but shall be sold entire: *Provided,* That this section shall not be construed to alter any special provision made by law for the sale of land in town lots.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That credit shall not be allowed for the purchase money on the sale of any of the public lands which shall be sold after the first day of July next, but every purchaser of land sold at public sale thereafter, shall, on the day of purchase, make complete payment therefor; and the purchaser at private sale shall produce, to the register of the land office, a receipt from the treasurer of the United States, or from the receiver of public moneys of the district, for the amount of the purchase money on any tract, before he shall enter the same at the land office; and if any person, being the highest bidder, at public sale, for a tract of land, shall fail to make payment therefor, on the day on which the same was purchased, the tract shall be again offered at public sale, on the next day of sale, and such person shall not be capable of becoming the purchaser of that or any other tract offered at such public sales.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That from and after the first day of July next, the price at which the public lands shall be offered for sale, shall be one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre; and at every public sale, the highest bidder, who shall make payment as aforesaid, shall be the purchaser; but no land shall be sold, either at public or private sale, for a less price than one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre; and all the public lands which shall have been offered at public sale before the first day of July next, and which shall then remain unsold, as well as the lands that shall thereafter be offered at public sale, according to law, and remain unsold at the close of such public sales, shall be subject to be sold at private sale, by entry at the land office, at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre, to be paid at the time of making such entry as aforesaid; with the exception, however, of the lands which may have reverted to the United States, for failure in payment, and of the heretofore reserved sections for the future disposal of Congress, in the states of Ohio and Indiana, which shall be offered at public sale, as hereinafter directed.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That no lands which have reverted, or which shall hereafter revert, and become forfeited to the United States for failure in any manner to make payment, shall, after the first day of July next, be subject to entry at private sale, nor until the same shall have been first offered to the highest bidder at public sale; and all such

lands which shall have reverted before the said first day of July next, and which shall then belong to the United States, together with the sections, and parts of sections, heretofore reserved for the future disposal of Congress, which shall, at the time aforesaid, remain unsold, shall be offered at public sale to the highest bidder, who shall make payment therefor, in half quarter sections, at the land office for the respective districts, on such day or days as shall, by proclamation of the President of the United States, be designated for that purpose; and all lands which shall revert and become forfeited for failure of payment after the said first day of July next, shall be offered in like manner at public sale, at such time, or times, as the President shall by his proclamation designate for the purpose: *Provided*, That no such lands shall be sold at any public sales hereby authorized, for a less price than one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre, nor on any other terms than that of cash payment; and all the lands offered at such public sales, and which shall remain unsold at the close thereof, shall be subject to entry at private sale, in the same manner, and at the same price with the other lands sold at private sale, at the respective land offices.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the several public sales authorized by this act, shall, respectively, be kept open for two weeks, and no longer; and the registers of the land office and the receivers of public money shall, each, respectively, be entitled to five dollars for each day's attendance thereon.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That, in every case hereafter, where two or more persons shall apply for the purchase, at private sale, of the same tract, at the same time, the register shall determine the preference, by forthwith offering the tract to the highest bidder.

APPROVED, April 24, 1820.

reverted, &c. before the 1st July, 1820, and reserved sections.

Sale of lands reverting, &c. after 1st July, 1820.

All lands unsold at public, may be entered at private sale.

Public sales for two weeks.

Preference to be given to the highest bidder.

STATUTE I.

May 1, 1820.

CHAP. LII.—*An Act in addition to the several acts for the establishment and regulation of the Treasury, War, and Navy Departments.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury, to cause to be carried to the account of the surplus fund, any moneys appropriated for the Department of War, or of the Navy, which may remain unexpended in the treasury, or in the hands of the treasurer, as agent for those departments, whenever he shall be informed, by the secretaries of those departments, that the object for which the appropriation was made has been effected. And it shall be the duty of the Secretaries of War and Navy Departments, to cause any balance of moneys drawn out of the treasury, which shall remain unexpended, after the object for which the appropriation was made shall be effected, to be repaid to the treasury of the United States; and such moneys, when so repaid, shall be carried to the surplus fund.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Secretaries of the War and Navy Departments, to lay before Congress, on the first day of February, of each year, a statement of the appropriations of the preceding year, for their departments respectively, showing the amount appropriated under each specific head of appropriation, the amount expended under each, and the balance remaining unexpended, either in the treasury, or in the treasurer's hands, as agent of the War or Navy Departments, on the thirty-first December preceding: And it shall be further the duty of the Secretaries aforesaid, to estimate the probable demands which may remain on each appropriation, and the balance shall be deducted from the estimates of their departments, respectively, for the service of the current year; and accounts shall also be annually rendered, in manner and form as aforesaid, exhibiting the sums expended out of the estimates aforesaid, and the balance, if any, which may remain on

Act of March 2, 1809, ch. 28.

Unexpended moneys to be carried to the surplus fund.

Balances of moneys drawn, after the object has been effected, to be repaid to the treasury, &c.

Secretaries of War and Navy to lay before Congress, annually, a statement of appropriations, &c.

Secretaries to estimate the probable demands, and the balance to be deducted, &c. Accounts to be annually rendered.