

STATUTE I.

May 26, 1824.

The right of pre-emption to one quarter section of land granted to the several counties of each state and territory of the United States, where there are public lands, for certain purposes.

Proviso.
Proviso.

Parts of other acts repealed.

CHAP. CLXIX.—*An Act granting to the counties or parishes of each state and territory of the United States, in which the public lands are situated, the right of pre-emption to quarter sections of land, for seats of justice within the same.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That there be granted to the several counties or parishes of each state and territory of the United States, where there are public lands, at the minimum price for which public lands of the United States are sold, the right of pre-emption to one quarter section of land, in each of the counties or parishes, of said states and territories, in trust for said counties or parishes, respectively, for the establishment of seats of justice therein: *Provided,* The proceeds of the sale of each of said quarter sections shall be appropriated for the purpose of erecting public buildings in the county or parish for which it is located, after deducting therefrom the amount originally paid for the same: *And provided, further,* That the seat of justice for said counties or parishes, respectively, shall be fixed previously to a sale of the adjoining lands within the county or parish for which the same is located.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That so much of such acts, heretofore passed, granting to states rights of pre-emption, for county or parish purposes, as require said seats of justice to be continued at or near the centre of each of said counties or parishes, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

APPROVED, May 26, 1824.

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May 26, 1824.

Certain counties to compose a part of the western, instead of the eastern judicial district of Pennsylvania.

Time and place of holding courts.

CHAP. CLXX.—*An Act to alter the judicial districts of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.*(a)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the following counties in the state of Pennsylvania shall cease to be a part of the eastern judicial district of Pennsylvania, and shall be added to, and form a part of, the western district; that is to say: Susquehanna, Bradford, Tioga, Union, Northumberland, Columbia, Luzerne, and Lycoming: and that, besides the terms of the district court directed by law to be held at Pittsburg, for the western district, the judge of the said western district shall hold two terms in every year, at William's Port, in the county of Lycoming, which shall commence on the first Mondays of the months of June and October, in each and every year, beginning in October next, and be continued and adjourned from time to time, as the court may deem expedient for the despatch of the business thereof.

APPROVED, May 26, 1824.

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Act of Feb. 17, 1818, ch. 12. Public lands to be formed into a new land district.

Act of March 3, 1823, ch. 66.
Act of May 4, 1826, ch. 32.

CHAP. CLXXI.—*An Act to establish an additional land office in the state of Missouri.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That so much of the public lands of the United States included in the present district of St. Louis, in the state of Missouri, as lies within the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning on the Mississippi river, between townships numbered forty-eight and forty-nine, thence west to the range line between ranges ten and eleven; thence north to the township line between townships numbered fifty-two and fifty-three; thence west to the range line between

(a) See notes to the act of May 15, 1820, ch. 111.

ranges thirteen and fourteen; thence north to the northern boundary line of the state of Missouri; thence east with the state line to the river Desmoines; thence, with the river Desmoines and the state line, to the Mississippi river; thence, with and down the Mississippi river to the place of beginning, so as to include all the islands within the limits of the state of Missouri, shall be formed into a new land district, to be called "The district of Salt river;" and, for the sale of the public lands within the district hereby constituted, there shall be a land office established at such place, within the said district, as the President of the United States may designate.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be a register and receiver appointed to said office to superintend the sales of public lands in the said district, and who shall reside at the place where said office is established, give security in the same manner and sums, and whose compensation, emoluments, duties, and authorities, shall, in every respect, be the same, in relation to the lands to be disposed of, at their offices, as are or may be, by law, provided, in relation to the registers and receivers of public moneys, in the several offices established for the sale of the public lands.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That all such public lands, embraced within the district created by this act, which shall have been offered for sale to the highest bidder, at St. Louis, pursuant to any proclamation of the President of the United States, and which lands remain unsold at the taking effect of this act, shall be subject to be entered and sold, at private sale, by the proper officer or officers of the land office hereby created, in the same manner, and subject to the same terms and upon the like conditions, as the sales of said lands would have been subjected to, in the land office at St. Louis, had they remained attached to that office.

APPROVED, May 26, 1824.

A register and receiver to be appointed.

All lands embraced within said district which have been offered for sale pursuant to any proclamation of the President, and now remain unsold, liable to be disposed of at private sale.

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May 26, 1824.

CHAP. CLXXII.—*An Act to provide for the sale of lands conveyed to the United States in certain cases, and for other purposes.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the agent of the treasury be, and he hereby is, authorized, in all cases where the estates of insolvent debtors have been, or hereafter shall be, assigned to the United States, under the act of the sixth June, seventeen hundred and ninety-eight, entitled "An act providing for the discharge of persons imprisoned for debts due to the United States, to sell such estates, whether real or personal, at such time, and in such manner, as, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury, he shall think fit, for the best price that can be had therefor, and to make all needful conveyances, assignments, or transfers, of the same, to the purchaser or purchasers.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That, at any and every sale, on executions, at the suit of the United States, of lands or tenements of a debtor, it shall be lawful for the United States, by such agent as the agent of the treasury shall appoint, to become the purchaser of such lands and tenements: *Provided*, That in no case shall such agent bid in behalf of the United States for a greater amount than that of the judgment for which such estate may be exposed to sale, and the costs; and it shall be the duty of the marshal of the district in which such sale shall be held, in case such purchases shall be made, to make all needful conveyances, assignments, transfers, to the United States; and the agent of the treasury is hereby authorized, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury, to sell and convey the said lands and tenements in the same manner as is directed by the first section of this act, in respect to lands and tenements assigned by insolvent debtors.

In all cases where the estates of insolvent debtors have been, or shall be, assigned to the United States under the act of June 6, 1798, ch. 49, the agent of the treasury is authorized to sell such estate, whether real or personal.

United States may become the purchaser of lands or tenements of a debtor, when sold at their suit.

Proviso.