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§ 881. Cost of survey of grants to railroads; payment

Before any land granted to any railroad company by the United States shall be conveyed to such company, or any persons entitled thereto under any of the acts incorporating or relating to said company, unless such company is exempted by law from the payment of such cost, there shall first be paid into the Treasury of the United States the cost of surveying, selecting, and conveying the same by the said company or persons in interest.

(July 15, 1870, ch. 292, 16 Stat. 305; July 31, 1876, ch. 246, 19 Stat. 121.)

§ 882. Surveyed lands taxable notwithstanding lien; provisos

No lands granted to any railroad corporation by any Act of Congress shall be exempt from taxation by States, Territories, and municipal corporations on account of the lien of the United States upon the same for the costs of surveying, selecting, and conveying the same, or because no patent has been issued therefor; but this provision shall not apply to lands unsurveyed: *Provided*, That any such land sold for taxes shall be taken by the purchaser subject to the lien for costs of surveying, selecting, and conveying, to be paid in such manner by the purchaser as the Secretary of the Interior may by rule provide and to all liens of the United States, all mortgages of the United States, and all rights of the United States in respect of such lands: *Provided further*, That sections 882 to 885 of this title shall apply only to lands situated opposite to and coterminous with completed portions of said roads, and in organized counties: *Provided further*, That at any sale of lands under the provisions of sections 882 to 885 of this title the United States may become a preferred purchaser, and in such case the lands sold shall be restored to the public domain and disposed of as provided by the laws relating thereto.

(July 10, 1886, ch. 764, § 1, 24 Stat. 143.)

§ 883. Collection of costs of surveying, etc.; reimbursement of purchaser

If any railroad corporation required by law to pay the costs of surveying, selecting, or conveying any lands granted to such company or for its use and benefit by Act of Congress shall for thirty days neglect or refuse to pay any such costs after demand for payment thereof by the Secretary of the Interior, he shall notify the Attorney General, who shall at once commence proceedings to collect the same. But when any sum shall be collected of such railroad company as costs of surveying, selecting, and conveying any tract of land which shall have been purchased under the provisions of section 882 of this title, the Secretary of the Interior shall out of such collections reimburse said purchaser, his heirs or assigns, the amount of money paid by him as the costs of such surveying, selecting, and conveying.

(July 10, 1886, ch. 764, § 2, 24 Stat. 143.)

§ 884. Right of forfeiture of railroad grants not affected

Sections 882 to 885 of this title shall not affect the right of the Government to declare or enforce a forfeiture of any lands so granted; but all the rights of the United States to said lands or to any interest therein shall be and remain as if said sections had not passed, except as to the lien mentioned in section 882 of this title.

(July 10, 1886, ch. 764, § 3, 24 Stat. 143.)

§ 885. Union Pacific Railroad lands

The costs of surveying, selecting, and conveying lands granted to the Union Pacific Railroad Company shall become due and payable at and on the demand therefor made by the Secretary of the Interior as provided in section 883 of this title, and nothing in sections 882 to 885 of this title shall be construed or taken in any wise to affect or impair the right of Congress at any time further to alter, amend, or repeal the Act of July 2, 1864, chapter 216, as in the opinion of Congress, justice or the public welfare may require, or to impair or waive any right or remedy in the premises existing on July 10, 1886, in favor of the United States. Sections 882 to 885 of this title shall be subject to alteration, amendment, or repeal.

(July 10, 1886, ch. 764, § 4, 24 Stat. 143.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of July 2, 1864, referred to in text, is act July 2, 1864, ch. 216, 13 Stat. 357, which enacted section 942-3 of this title and first paragraph of former section 83 of Title 45, Railroads. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

§ 886. Survey of lands within limits of railroad grants

For the survey of the public lands lying within the limits of land grants made by Congress to aid in the construction of railroads, and the selection therein of such lands as are granted