the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ten, and prior to
the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eleven, had pur-
chased any tract or tracts of land of the United States, not exceeding in
the whole six hundred and forty acres, at any of the land offices of the
United States, and whose lands have not already been actually sold or
reverted to the United States, for non-payment of part of the purchase
money, shall be, and they hereby are allowed the further time of three
years, from and after the expiration of the period already given by law
for completing the payment of the purchase money aforesaid; which
further time of three years shall be allowed only on the following con-
ditions: first, all arrears of interest on the purchase money shall be paid
on or before the expiration of the time for completing the payment of
the purchase money according to former laws; Provided, That in all
cases in which the time for completing the payment of the purchase
money may have expired, or shall expire before the first day of June
next, the interest may be paid on or before that day: second, the residue
of the sum due on account of the principal of such purchase shall be
paid, with interest thereon, in three equal annual payments, as follows,
viz: one third of the said sum, with the interest due thereon, within one
year; one third of the said sum, with the interest due thereon within
two years, and the residue, with the interest due thereon, within three
years after the expiration of the time for completing the payments on
such purchases according to law. And in case of failure to pay the
arrears of interest, or any of the three instalments of principal, with
the accruing interest, at the time above-mentioned, the tract of land shall be
forthwith advertised and offered for sale in the manner and on the terms
directed by law, in case of lands not paid within the time limited by
law, and shall revert to the United States in like manner, if the same is
not sold at such sale.

APPROVED, February 4, 1815.

STATUTE III.

Feb. 7, 1815.

Act of March 3, 1815, ch. 92.
Three officers of the navy to be appointed a board of commissioners for
the navy.
Their powers and duties.

Board made subordinate to Secretary of the Navy.

Board of commissioners to draw up regulations for

Chap. XXXV.—An Act to alter and amend the several acts for establishing a
Navy Department, by adding thereto a board of commissioners. (a)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the President
of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized, by and with the
advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint three officers of the navy,
whose rank shall not be below a post captain, who shall constitute a
board of commissioners for the navy of the United States; and shall
have power to adopt such rules and regulations for the government of
their meetings as they may judge expedient: and the board so constituted,
shall be attached to the office of the Secretary of the Navy, and under
his superintendence shall discharge all the ministerial duties of said
office, relative to the procurement of naval stores and materials, and the
construction, armament, equipment, and employment, of vessels of war,
as well as all other matters connected with the naval establishment of
the United States. And the said board shall appoint their own secretary,
who shall receive in compensation for his services a sum not exceeding
two thousand dollars per annum, who shall keep a fair record of their
proceedings, subject at all times to the inspection of the President of the
United States, and the Secretary of the Navy.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said board of commis-
sioners, by and with the consent of the Secretary of the Navy, be, and
are hereby authorized to prepare such rules and regulations, as shall be
necessary for securing an uniformity in the several classes of vessels and

(a) See note to act of April 30, 1798, vol. i. 553. See act of Aug. 31, 1842, ch. 286, repealing this
act, and organizing five bureaus attached to the Navy Department.
their equipments, and for repairing and refitting them, and for securing responsibility in the subordinate officers and agents: which regulations, when approved by the President of the United States, shall be respected and obeyed, until altered and revoked by the same authority; and the said rules and regulations thus prepared and approved, shall be laid before Congress at their next session. It shall also be the duty of said board, upon the requisition of the Secretary of the Navy, to furnish all the estimates of expenditure, which the several branches of the service may require, and such other information and statements as he may deem necessary.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That the officer of the said board holding the oldest commission shall preside, and each commissioner shall be entitled to receive, in compensation for his services, three thousand five hundred dollars per annum in lieu of wages, rations, and other emoluments, as naval officers; and all letters and packets to and from the said commissioners, which relate to their official duties, shall be free from postage.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That nothing in this act shall be construed to take from the Secretary of the Navy his control and direction of the naval forces of the United States, as now by law possessed.

APPROVED, February 7, 1815.

CHAP. XXXVIII.—An Act for the better regulation of the Ordnance Department.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act, the ordnance department shall consist of one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, two majors, ten captains, ten first lieutenants, ten second lieutenants, and ten third lieutenants.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the colonel or senior officer of the ordnance department is authorized to enlist for the service of that department, for five years, as many master armorers, master carriage makers, master blacksmiths, artificers, armorers, carriage makers, blacksmiths, and labourers, as the public service, in his judgment, under the directions of the Secretary for the Department of War, may require.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the colonel of the ordnance department to direct the inspection and proving of all pieces of ordnance, cannon balls, shot, shells, small arms, and side arms, and equipments, procured for the use of the armies of the United States; and to direct the construction of all cannon and carriages, and every implement and apparatus for ordnance, and all ammunition wagons, travelling forges, and artificer's wagons, the inspection and proving of powder, and the preparation of all kinds of ammunition and ordnance stores. And it shall also be the duty of the colonel or senior officer of the ordnance department, to furnish estimates, and under the direction of the Secretary for the Department of War, to make contracts and purchases for procuring the necessary supplies of arms, equipments, ordnance and ordnance stores.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That the colonel of the ordnance department shall organize and attach to regiments, corps, or garrisons, such number of artificers, with proper tools, carriages and apparatus, under such regulations and restrictions relative to their government and number, as, in his judgment, with the approbation of the Secretary for the Department of War, may be considered necessary.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That the colonel of the ordnance department, or senior officer of that department of any district, shall execute all orders of the Secretary for the Department of War, and, in time of war, the orders of any general, or field officer, commanding any army,