Certain purchasers entitled, in certain cases, to patents.

In other cases to pre-emption.

Certain occupants to have pre-emption until July 4, 1831.

or assignees of such of the public lands as were sold on a credit for a less price than fourteen dollars per acre, and on which a further credit has been taken under any of the laws passed for the relief of purchasers of public lands, and which lands have reverted to the United States on account of the balance due thereon not having been paid or discharged, agreeably to said relief laws, shall be entitled to patents, without further payment, in all instances where one dollar and twenty-five cents, or a greater sum, per acre, shall have been paid; or where payment to that amount shall not have been heretofore made, such purchasers, their heirs or assignees, shall have the right of pre-emption until the fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, by paying into the proper land office such sum in addition to the amount heretofore paid, as will, together, amount to the minimum price of the lands of the United States at the time of such payment.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That all such occupants of relinquished land as are contemplated and described in the second section of the above recited act, to which this is a supplement, as are in possession of land which was sold on credit for a less sum than fourteen dollars per acre, shall have the right of pre-emption of the same lands, according to the legal subdivisions of sections, not exceeding the quantity of two quarter sections, in contiguous tracts or contiguous to other lands held by such occupants respectively, until the fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, upon their paying into a proper office for all land originally sold for a price not exceeding five dollars per acre, one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre; and for all lands which originally sold for more than five dollars, and not exceeding fourteen dollars per acre, the amount of the first installment heretofore paid; such occupants first proving their possession, respectively in conformity to the provisions of the said act, to which this is a supplement, in the manner which has been prescribed by the commissioner of the general land office, pursuant to the provisions thereof: Provided, however, That in all cases where proof of possession has been already made under said recited act, proof shall not again be required, unless the applicant choose to take other land than that to which such proof applies.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the provisions of this act shall extend to all town property of which the government has been proprietors, and not subsequently sold, when full payment has not been made: Provided, The original purchasers, or their assignees, pay into the proper land office, on or before the fourth of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, one half of the original purchase money without interest.

Approved, February 25, 1831.
decide upon the amount and validity of all such claims as may be pre-

tened to them, and are provided for by the convention referred to, ac-

cording to the merits of the several cases, and to justice, equity, and the

law of nations, and according to the provisions of said convention.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That all records, documents, or other

papers, which now are in, or hereafter, during the continuance of this

commission, may come into the possession of the Department of State,

in relation to such claims, shall be delivered to the commission aforesaid.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the said commissioners, or a

majority of them, with their secretary, whose appointment is hereinafter

provided for, shall convene in this city on the first Monday of April

next, and shall proceed to execute the duties of their commission; and

the Secretary of State shall be, and he is hereby, authorized and re-

quired forthwith, after the passing of this act, to give notice of the said

intended meeting, to be published in one or more public gazettes in the

city of Washington, and in such other public papers, published elsewhere

in the United States, as he may designate.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the said commissioners shall

proceed immediately after their meeting in the city of Washington, with

all convenient despatch, to arrange and docket the several claims, and to

consider the evidence which shall have been, or which may be offered by

the respective claimants, allowing such further time for the production

of such further evidence as may be required, and as they shall think rea-

sonable and just; and they shall thereupon proceed to determine the said

claims, and to award distribution of the sums to be received by the

United States from the King of Denmark under the stipulations of the

convention aforesaid, among the several claimants according to their re-

spective rights.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the said commissioners shall

be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to make all needful

rules and regulations, not contravening the laws of the land, the provi-

sions of this act, or the provisions of the said convention, for carrying

their said commission into full and complete effect.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United

States be, and he is hereby, authorized, by and with the advice and con-

sent of the Senate, to appoint a secretary to the said commission.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the said commissioners and

secretary shall severally take an oath for the faithful performance of the

duties of their respective offices.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That the compensation of the re-

spective officers for whose appointment provision is made by this act

shall not exceed the following sums: to each of the said commissioners

at the rate of three thousand dollars per annum, and to the secretary of

the board at the rate of two thousand dollars per annum; and the President

of the United States shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to make such

provision for the contingent expenses of the said commission as shall

appear to him reasonable and proper; and the said salaries and expenses

shall be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That all moneys to be received from

the Danish government under the convention aforesaid, shall be paid

into the treasury of the United States, and shall constitute a fund for

satisfying the awards of the commission provided for by this act.

Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That all communications to or

from the secretary of the board of commissioners on the business of

the commission, shall pass by mail free of postage.

Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, That as soon as the said commis-

sion shall be executed and completed, the records, documents, and all

other papers in the possession of the commission or its officers, shall be

deposited in the office of the Secretary of State.

Approved, February 25, 1831.