

to St. Augustine.

United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause to be opened, in the territory of Florida, a public road from Pensacola to St. Augustine, commencing at Deer Point, on the bay of Pensacola, and pursuing the Old Indian Trail to the Cow Ford, on the Choctawhatchy river; thence, direct to the natural bridge on the Ecanfinan river; thence, to the Ochesee Bluff, on the Appalachian river; thence, in the most direct practicable route, to the site of Fort St. Lewis; thence, as nearly as practicable, on the old Spanish road to St. Augustine, crossing the St. John's river at Picolata; which road shall be plainly and distinctly marked, and shall be of the width of twenty-five feet.

The troops of the United States to open the same.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to employ the troops of the United States, stationed in Florida, in such manner as he may think proper, in the completion, or in assisting in the completion, of said road.

20,000 dollars to be appropriated.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That, for defraying the expenses of opening the said road, the sum of twenty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

The most direct and practicable route to be surveyed from Cape Sable to where the Suwaney river will be intersected by the road from Pensacola to St. Augustine, &c.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause to be surveyed and marked out, the most direct and practicable route for a public road from Cape Sable, passing by Charlotte Harbour and the bay of Tampa, to the point where the Suwaney river will be intersected by the road to be opened from Pensacola to St. Augustine, and to cause to be surveyed, and marked out, the route for a public road, from Cape Florida to St. Augustine.

3000 dollars to be appropriated.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That, for defraying the expenses of the surveys aforesaid, the sum of three thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

APPROVED, February 28, 1824.

STATUTE I.

Feb. 28, 1824.

CHAP. XXIII.—*An Act to regulate the surveying of public and private lands in the southern part of Alabama.*

Lands to be attached to the district of the surveyor, and the deputy surveyor east of the island of New Orleans, &c.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That all the lands in the state of Alabama shall be attached to the district of the surveyor of the public lands in the state of Alabama, and the surveying of all public and private lands, in the said state, shall hereafter be made under his direction; and it shall be the duty of the deputy surveyor of the district east of the island of New Orleans, and east of Pearl river, to return the plats of all private claims within the state of Alabama, to the office of the said surveyor.

APPROVED, February 28, 1824.

STATUTE I.

Feb. 28, 1824.

CHAP. XXV.—*An Act to extend the time limited for the settlement of private land claims in the territory of Florida.* (a)

[Expired.]
The act amending, &c. the act for ascertaining the titles to land in Florida, to be extended.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the time limited for the settlement of private land claims in the territory of Florida, by an act of the seventeenth Congress, entitled "An act amending, and supplementary to, the act for ascertaining claims and titles to land in the territory of Florida, and to provide for the survey and disposal of the public lands in Florida, be, and the same is hereby, extended and enlarged, until the

Act of March 3, 1823, ch. 29, 34.

(a) See notes to the act of May 8, 1822, ch. 129.

first day of January next, when the commissioners for ascertaining claims and titles to the lands aforesaid shall make a return of their proceedings to the secretary of the treasury, to be laid before Congress.

Act of March 3, 1825, ch. 83. April 22, 1826, ch. 29.

The claimant or claimants not required to produce in evidence a derangement of title from the original grantee or patentee, &c. 1822, ch. 129.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the claimant or claimants shall not be required to produce, in evidence, a derangement of title from the original grantee or patentee, but the exhibition of the original title papers, agreeably to the fourth section of an act, passed the eighth of May, eighteen hundred and twenty-two, entitled "An act for ascertaining claims and titles to lands within the territory of Florida," with the deed or devise, to the claimant, and the office abstract or abstracts of the intermediate conveyances for the last ten years preceding the surrender of Florida to the United States; and, where they cannot be produced, their absence being satisfactorily accounted for, shall be sufficient evidence of the right of the claimant or claimants to the land so claimed as against the United States: *Provided*, The claim be defined in quantity, and the amount does not exceed the quantity limited in the second section of the act which this is intended to extend; *And provided*, the conditions required by the laws and ordinances of the Spanish government, and the treaty between Spain and the United States, shall have been complied with.

Proviso.

Proviso.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That no person shall be taken and deemed to be an actual settler, within the provisions of the "act amending, and supplementary to, an act for ascertaining claims and titles to land in the territory of Florida," passed on the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, unless such person, or those under whom he claims title, shall have been in the cultivation, or occupation, of the land, at and before the period of the cession.

No person to be deemed an actual settler within the provisions of the act of March 3, 1823, ch. 29, unless he be an occupier, &c.

Part of act repealed.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the act of which this is an amendment, as authorizes the secretary of said commissioners to demand and receive from the claimants ten cents per hundred words for recording titles to land, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the former secretaries, or those who may now be secretaries, to the said boards of commissioners, who shall have received their salary of one thousand two hundred and fifty dollars, from the treasury of the United States, which is, by law, declared to be their full compensation, shall be, and they are hereby, required to pay over, respectively, to the commissioners, conformably with the provisions of the original law, all such fees as have been demanded, and received by them, which shall be appropriated to defray the expenses of the commission.

Secretaries of commissioners having received 1250 dollars, required to pay over such fees as have been demanded and received by them.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the acts of which this is amendatory, as makes void all claims not filed before the first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, be, and the same is hereby, repealed; and it shall be lawful for claims to be filed any time previous to the first day of September next; but all and every claim not filed by that time, shall be held and deemed void and of none effect.

So much of the acts of which this is amendatory, as makes void all claims not filed before Dec. 1, 1823, to be repealed.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That each of the commissioners heretofore appointed, or who may hereafter be appointed, who has performed, and shall hereafter perform, the duties assigned him, shall receive, from the first Monday in February until the first day of January next, at the rate of two thousand dollars per annum, in full compensation for his services.

Compensation of the commissioners.

APPROVED, February 28, 1824.