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### (By Authority.)

#### LAW OF THE UNITED STATES.

An Act making further provision for settling the claims to land in the territory of Missouri.

*BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That the rights, titles and claims, to town or village lots, out lots, common field lots and commons, in, adjoining and belonging to the several towns or villages of Portage des Sioux, St. Charles, St. Louis, St. Ferdinand, Villago a Robert, Carondelet, St. Genevieve, New Madrid, New Bourbon, Little Prairie and Arkansas, in the territory of Missouri, which lots have been inhabited, cultivated or possessed prior to the twentieth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and three, shall be, and the same are hereby confirmed to the inhabitants of the respective towns or villages aforesaid, according to their several right or rights in common thereto: *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect the rights of any persons claiming the same lands, or any part thereof, whose claims have been confirmed by the board of commissioners for adjusting and settling claims to lands in the said territory. And it shall be the duty of the principal deputy surveyor for the said territory, as soon as may be, to survey, or cause to be surveyed and marked, (where the same has not already been done according to law) the out boundary lines of the said several towns or villages, so as to include the out lots, common field lots and commons, thereto respectively belonging. And he shall make out plats of the surveys, which he shall transmit to the surveyor-general, who shall forward copies of the said plats to the commissioner of the general land office, and to the recorder of land titles; the expense of surveying the said out boundary lines shall be paid by the United States, out of any monies appropriated for surveying the public lands: *Provided,* That the whole expense shall not exceed three dollars for every mile that shall be actually surveyed and marked.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all town or village lots, out lots or common field lots, included in such surveys, which are not rightfully owned or claimed by any private individuals, or held as commons belonging to such towns or villages, or that the President of the United States may not think proper to reserve for military purposes, shall be, and the same are hereby reserved for the support of schools in the respective towns or villages as aforesaid: *Provided,* That the whole quantity of land contained in the lots reserved for the support of schools in any one town or village, shall not exceed one-twentieth part of the whole lands included in the general survey of such town or village.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That every claim to a donation of lands in the said territory, in virtue of settlement and cultivation, which is embraced by the report of the commissioners, transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury, and which, by the said report, shall appear not to have been confirmed, merely because permission, by the proper Spanish officer, to settle has not been duly proven; or because the tract claimed, although inhabited, was not cultivated on the twentieth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and three, or not to have been confirmed on account of both said causes; the same shall be confirmed, in case it shall appear that the tract so claimed was inhabited by the claimant or some one for his use prior to the twentieth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and three, as aforesaid, and cultivated in eight months thereafter, subject, however, to every other limitation and restriction prescribed by former laws in respect to such claims; and in all cases where it shall appear by the said report or other records of the board that claims to land have not been confirmed merely on the ground that the claim was for a greater quantity than eight hundred arpens, French measure, every such claim to the extent of eight hundred arpens, shall be confirmed.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the recorder of land titles for the said territory shall, without delay, make an extract from the books of the said board of commissioners of all the claims to land which are, by the preceding section, directed to be confirmed, a copy of which he shall transmit to the commissioner of the general land office;

and he shall furnish the principal deputy surveyor with a proper description of the tracts so to be confirmed, where, in the quantity, locality, boundaries and connexion, when practicable with each other, and those tracts that have been confirmed by the board of commissioners shall be stated. And whenever plats of the surveys as hereinafter directed, shall have been returned to the said recorder's office, it shall be his duty to issue for each tract to be confirmed, as aforesaid, to the person entitled thereto, a certificate in favor of the party, which shall be transmitted to the commissioner of the general land office; and if it shall appear to the satisfaction of the said commissioner that such certificate has been fairly obtained, according to the true intent and meaning of this act, then in that case patents shall be granted in like manner as is provided by law for the other lands of the United States.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the principal deputy surveyor shall survey, or cause to be surveyed, under the direction of the surveyor general, so much of the lands in the said territory, to which the Indian title has been extinguished, as the President of the United States may direct, into townships of six miles square, by lines running due north and south, and others crossing these at right angles; and also the lands, the claims to which are directed to be confirmed by the third section of this act; and the lands, the claims to which have been confirmed by the board of commissioners, where the same has not already been surveyed under the authority of the United States. And the said principal deputy surveyor shall make out a general and connected plat of all the surveys directed by this act to be made, or which have already been made under the authority of the United States, which he shall transmit to the surveyor general, who shall transmit copies of the said plat or plats to the recorder of land titles, and the commissioner of the general land office. The expense of surveying shall be paid by the United States: *Provided,* The same shall not in the whole exceed three dollars a mile for every mile that shall be actually surveyed and marked.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That in all cases where, by reason of the indefinite description of the local situation and boundaries of any tract, the claim to which has been confirmed by the commissioners, the same cannot be ascertained by the principal deputy surveyor, it shall be the duty of the recorder of the land titles, on the application of the said principal deputy, to furnish such precise description thereof, as can be obtained from the records in his office, and the books of the said board of commissioners; and for the purpose of the more correctly ascertaining the locality and boundaries of any such tracts, the said principal deputy shall have free access at all reasonable hours to the books and papers in the recorder's office, relating to land claims, and be permitted to take copies or such extracts therefrom, or any of them, as he may think proper and necessary for the discharge of his duty in executing such surveys. And the said recorder shall be allowed twenty-five cents for the description of each tract which he shall furnish to the principal deputy surveyor as aforesaid.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That every person or persons claiming lands in the territory of Missouri, who are actual settlers on the lands which the claim, and whose claims have not been heretofore filed with the recorder of land titles for the said territory, shall be allowed until the first day of December next, to deliver notices in writing, and the written evidences of their claims to the said recorder; and the notices and evidences so delivered within the time limited by this act, shall be recorded in the same manner, and on payment of the same fees as if the same had been delivered before the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and eight; but the rights of such persons as shall neglect so doing within the time limited by this act, shall, so far as they are derived from, or founded on any act of Congress, ever after be barred and become void, and the evidences of their claims never after admitted as evidence in any court of the United States, against any grant derived from the United States.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That the said recorder of land titles shall have the same powers and perform the same duties in relation to the claims thus filed, before the first day of December next,

and the claims which have been heretofore filed, but not decided on by the commissioners, as the board of commissioners had by former laws respecting claims filed prior to the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and eight, except that all of his decisions shall be subject to the revision of Congress.—And it shall be the duty of the said recorder to make to the commissioner of the general land office a report of all the claims which shall be thus filed before the first day of December next, and of the claims which have been already filed, but not decided on by the said commissioners; together with the substance of the evidence in support thereof, with his opinion and such remarks as he may think proper, which report, together with a list of the claims which, in the opinion of the said recorder, ought to be confirmed, shall be laid by the commissioner of the general land office before Congress, at their next session, for their determination thereon. The said recorder, in addition to his salary as fixed by law, shall be allowed fifty cents for each claim which has been filed, but not decided on by the commissioners; or which shall be filed according to this act, and on which he shall make a decision, whether such decision be in favor of or against the claim, and a further allowance of five hundred dollars, which shall be paid after he shall have made his report to the commissioner of the general land office; which allowance of fifty cents for each claim decided on, and five hundred dollars on the completion of the business, shall be in full compensation for his services, including clerk hire, respecting the claims to be decided on according to this act.

HENRY CLAY,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
W. M. H. CRAWFORD,  
President of the Senate, pro tempore.  
June 13, 1812.—APPROVED,  
JAMES MADISON.

An Act repealing the tenth section of the act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States.

*BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That the tenth section of the act, entitled, "An act to incorporate the subscribers to the bank of the United States," shall be, and the same is hereby repealed.

H. CLAY,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
GEO. CLINTON,  
Vice-President of the U. States and President of the Senate,  
March 19, 1812.—APPROVED,  
JAMES MADISON.

An Act for the relief of Clement B. Penrose.

*BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That the proper officers of the Treasury be, and they are hereby authorized and required, to allow and pay unto Clement B. Penrose, one of the commissioners for ascertaining the rights of persons claiming lands in the territory of Louisiana, the sum of five hundred dollars, as a full compensation for having brought to the seat of government the report of the said commissioners.

H. CLAY,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
W. M. H. CRAWFORD,  
President of the Senate pro tempore.  
June 17, 1812.—APPROVED,  
JAMES MADISON.

RESOLUTION requesting the state of Georgia to assent to the formation of two states in the Mississippi territory.

RESOLVED, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Legislature of the state of Georgia be, and they are hereby requested, to give their assent by law, to the formation of two states of the Mississippi territory: *Provided,* in the opinion of Congress a division of said territory for that purpose should hereafter be expedient.

H. CLAY,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
W. M. H. CRAWFORD,  
President of the Senate pro tempore.  
June 17, 1812.—APPROVED,  
JAMES MADISON.

An Act authorizing the remission of forfeited recognizances in the district of Columbia.

*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 shall have the power to grant remission of the forfeitures of all recognizances acknowledged and taken, or to be acknowledged and taken, before any court, judge, justice of the peace, or other magistrate within the district of Columbia, either in the course of any criminal prosecution, or for surety of the peace.

June 17, 1812.—APPROVED,  
JAMES MADISON.

### Political Miscellany.

#### CONDITION OF ENGLAND.

Extract of a letter from an American gentleman in London, dated June 3, 1812.

"The departure of our friend R. for Philadelphia, will render any details of political affairs here unnecessary—indeed what could I say to you of a nation that for a month past has been without any government save that of the military, whilst she is at the same time assuming the sovereignty of the ocean, and wherever her authority reaches, dictating to the whole world: *but this is near a close*—her treasure is exhausted, and her intrigues with foreign nations to make them cut each other's throats, are at an end. The other day, the Swedes made an experiment on the financial resources of the country, by soliciting a small subsidy, not more than one-third of the Austrian loan, and this was accompanied by a small assurance that if supplied with funds of war Sweden would fight against France: Pitt would have made them a present by the return of the post, of a sum double the amount, but the pilot who "*weathered the storm*" is no more, & the money is no longer in the treasury! Bank paper was offered to the Swedish agent, but, *rejected*; and when the *sinews* have failed, what is to become of the *muscle*?"

"The policy of this unhappy nation has been the true source of its ruin, and the misfortunes of all Europe for years past; the harvest of sorrow which they have sown is now turning upon them, and the evil which they have sought to render permanent every where, in order to enjoy more than their natural share at home, has ended in promoting the interest and happiness of other nations. Foreign nations have been taught to cultivate their resources and to appreciate their own industry; the orders in council have established manufactures in every part of Europe; and the commercial monopoly with the political greatness of England, are at an end. Nothing could have been a more complete and effective retaliation of the orders in council than the non-importation system. The manufacturers are thrown almost entirely out of employ by it, and about half of the whole population of England are some way or other paupers. That this was effected by the *non importation law*, and not by the *embargo*, is sufficiently attested by the fact, that since the latter has been adopted by America, no advance has been experienced in American produce, either here or in Ireland. Even grain, scarce as it is, has not risen; but this is attributed to the manufacturers and laborers not having the means to purchase their ordinary subsistence. There is always an alternative here for the want of bread, and that a very simple one—*starvation*.

"As to the Spanish peninsula, the poor devils there are dying of famine; but I can assure you, this makes not the least impression on the good folks here—"charity begins at home," and I must do the people of England and Ireland the justice to say, that I conceive it to be wholly impossible for any nation ever to exist who can be more completely endowed with the virtue of the most liberal charity, than they are: no one can imagine who has not witnessed the charities here, the enormous sums contributed by private individuals to public and private charities, besides the national institutions for paupers; this great metropolis, in every street, has an establishment for the poor, from the infant up to the oldest decrepitude, supported by individual donations; and this extends all over the empire. When I see on a Sunday the thousands of children supported in this way parading to the places of worship, my heart melts with in me. It is impossible not to acknowledge that there are good and virtuous people in abundance in this nation, and as you know, worthy parents gave me at least a religious e-

ducation, I can scarcely help believing that, like Sodom and Gomorrah, the nation has been spared for the virtue of these men; and I am not without a hope, that when a revolution takes place in the government, which I conceive to be at hand, it will be conducted in a less sanguinary way than it was in a neighboring nation, because people generally seem to be prepared for the event. In the mean time, however, the men in power withhold it as long as they can, and they are so committed with respect to the general policy of the country, that they will be continued to the last, and it therefore behoves other nations to take care of themselves.

"I have been here about eleven months, and have had ample opportunities to see and hear and judge for myself—and have had many opportunities of conversing with men of the first eminence of all parties, during the discussions of the orders in council; the partial course pursued here will produce only a temporary illusion, but no other effect, and if some of our friends had their property at home, I should wish, because I believe it would be well for America, that this government should persevere in its blind policy; for so long as the Prince Regent holds the throne, it will be perfectly foolish for any one in the U. S. to expect that American commerce will be tolerated or American rights respected; and were the orders in council repealed to-morrow, some other equally oppressive restriction would be immediately substituted for them; and if the government of the U. States be wise, they will foster their own internal industry and manufactures particularly, they will have hands enough by every opportunity that occurs, as it has now become generally known what advantages are possessed, and the vast field that America offers to honest industry; but the U. States will never cease to be tormented and distracted by the artifices of this government, and by its emissaries, while this government possesses a single foot of land on the American continent. Canada and Nova-Scotia should therefore be taken in remuneration for the injuries suffered, and to protect us from the injuries which are meditated; but above all things, it behoves the U. S. to pursue a consistent and uniform system of policy. That vacillating policy which distracted and dismayed the friends of the government, and gave so much encouragement to the agents of England, still continues to persuade the government here that all the rumors they hear, and all the debates in Congress, are no more than menaces intended to be kept up to a certain extent and abandoned after a short time. This government, like all others, is composed of men, and men as much governed by expedients as weak men always are; it is not unnatural that they should judge of all the world by themselves. I trust they will find themselves as much mistaken in America as they were forty years ago. Let any honest avowed and manly system be adopted, and firmly followed up, it cannot fail. The embargo, in my opinion, was unnecessary, because the *non-importation* would in a few months have produced the very same effects; as those who could not draw bills nor get back their property must have ceased exporting; but the embargo being laid, it ought to be continued and enforced for twelve months, because the British government will by and bye issue a proclamation to protect all vessels bound to their colonies, &c. with provisions; and even if a war takes place they will get ample supplies from those *worthy merchants* who write letters to his country ridiculing and depreciating the power of their own government, and whose perfidious conduct has been of infinite mischief here, and constantly frustrated the endeavors of those who have been working night and day to produce a change of conduct in this government, and to avert the consequences. It is in fact these unprincipled men and the unprincipled newspapers supported by these men, who have encouraged this government to persevere in its outrages and the long continued course of injurious measures which it has pursued towards the U. States; and they may be justly accused, should a war take place, of being the authors of it. Phineas Bond is of course about the court and at the royal exchange—he is, above all men, the bitterest enemy that can be found in this country. How the U. States ever came