

river," shall be offered for sale at the same minimum price, and subject to the same rights of preemption, as other public lands of the United States: *Provided, however,* That no person shall be entitled to a preemption by reason of the settlement and cultivation of any quarter-section or other subdivision of said even-numbered sections, which tract, before the commencement of such settlement, shall have been claimed by any other person cultivating and improving the same in good faith, and which shall have continued to be claimed, in good faith, and improved in like good faith by such person, cultivated, and improved in like good faith by such person, or his representatives or assigns, until the sale of said tract, and of which said prior claim, cultivation, and improvement, the person so claiming preemption shall have had notice at the time of his entry and settlement. Neither shall any preemption be allowed to any tract to the injury of any person, or the representatives or assigns of any person claiming or occupying the same, or any part thereof, in good faith, in his or her right at the passage of this act, and owning valuable cultivation or improvements thereon, which cultivatable cultivation or improvements shall have been assigned by the person so claiming preemption, or, if commenced subsequently to the entry and settlement of such person, shall have been made with his consent or acquiescence.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the purchase of any tract of the said even-numbered sections mentioned in the preceding section, and sold since the reservation thereof, at the minimum price of two dollars and fifty cents per acre, shall be entitled to receive from the Commissioner of the General Land Office a certificate of the quantity of land so purchased and of the value of said land, at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre; which certificate, to the amount of such excess, shall be receivable from the holder thereof, or his assigns, in like manner as so much money, in payment of the public lands of the United States. That, in the event of the death of any such purchaser before the issuing of such certificate, the same shall be issued in favor of the lawful representatives of such purchaser.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the judge of the district court for the district of Wisconsin shall hold a term of said court in each year at the seat of government, to commence on the first Monday of July, and another term of said court in each year at Milwaukee, to commence on the first Monday of January. He shall also have power to hold special terms for the trial of causes, and for the determination of all suits or proceedings in said courts, at either of the aforesaid places, at his discretion, as the nature and the amount of the business may require. The said court shall be open at all times for the purpose of hearing and deciding cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction, so far as the same can be done without a jury. The records and papers of said court may be kept at either of the places herein designated for the holding of said court, as the judge in his discretion shall direct.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the clerks of the district courts of the Territory of Wisconsin shall, before their term of office expires, certify, under seal, and transmit to the clerk of said court, all records of all unsatisfied judgments and of suits pending in said courts respectively, attaching thereto all papers connected therewith, in all cases arising under the laws or Constitution of the United States, or to which the United States shall be a party; and they shall forward the same to the clerk of said district court of the State of Wisconsin, who shall enter the same in his docket, and the said district court shall proceed therein to final judgment and execution, as if such suits or proceedings had originally been brought in said court.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the clerk of the supreme court of the Territory of Wisconsin shall deliver over to the clerk of said district court all records and papers in the office of the clerk of the said supreme court relating to proceedings in bankruptcy under the late bankrupt law of the United States. He shall also certify under seal, and deliver to said clerk, all records of judgments and of proceedings in suits pending, and all papers connected therewith, in cases arising under the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That from and after the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and forty-nine, and until another census and apportionment shall be made, the State of Wisconsin shall be entitled to three Representatives in the Congress of the United States.

Mr. LINCOLN moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed. He stated to the House that he had made this motion for the purpose of obtaining an opportunity to say a few words in relation to a point raised in the course of the debate on this bill, which he would now proceed to make, if in order. The point in the case to which he referred arose on the amendment that was submitted by the gentleman from Vermont [Mr. COLLAMER] in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and which was afterwards renewed in the House, in relation to the question whether the reserved sections, which, by some bills heretofore passed, by which an appropriation of land had been made to Wisconsin, had been enhanced in value, should be reduced to the minimum price of the public lands. The question of the reduction in value of those sections was to him, at this time, a matter very nearly of indifference. He was inclined to desire that Wisconsin should be obliged by having it reduced. But the gentleman from Indiana, [Mr. C. B. SMITH,] the chairman of the Committee on the Territories, yesterday associated that question with the general question, which is now to some extent agitated in Congress, of making appropriations of alternate sections of land to aid the States in making internal improvements, and enhancing the price of the sections reserved; and the gentleman from Indiana

took ground against that policy. He did not make any special argument in favor of Wisconsin; but he took ground generally against the policy of giving alternate sections of land, and enhancing the price of the reserved sections. Now he (Mr. L.) did not, at this time, take the floor for the purpose of attempting to make an argument on the general subject. He rose simply to protest against the doctrine which the gentleman from Indiana had avowed in the course of what he (Mr. L.) could not but consider an unsound argument.

It might, however, be true, for anything he knew, that the gentleman from Indiana might convince him that his argument was sound; but he (Mr. L.) feared that gentleman would not be able to convince a majority in Congress that it was sound. It was true, the question appeared in a different aspect to persons in consequence of a difference in the point from which they looked at it. It did not look to persons residing east of the mountains as it did to those who lived among the public lands. But, for his part, he would state that if Congress would make a donation of alternate sections of public land for the purpose of internal improvements in his State, and forbid the reserved sections being sold at \$1 25, he should be glad to see the appropriation made; though he should prefer it if the reserved sections were not enhanced in price. He repeated, he should be glad to have such appropriations made, even though the reserved sections should be enhanced in price. He did not wish to be understood as concurring in any intimation that they would refuse to receive such an appropriation of alternate sections of land because a condition enhancing the price of the reserved sections should be attached thereto. He believed his position would now be understood; if not, he feared he should not be able to make himself understood.

But before he took his seat he would remark that the Senate, during the present session, had passed a bill making appropriations of land on that principle for the benefit of the State in which he resided—the State of Illinois. The alternate sections were to be given for the purpose of constructing roads, and the reserved sections were to be enhanced in value in consequence. When that bill came here for the action of this House—it had been received and was now before the Committee on Public Lands—he desired much to see it passed as it was, if it could be put in no more favorable form for the State of Illinois. When it should be before this House, if any member from a section of the Union in which these lands did not lie, whose interest might be less than that which he felt, should propose a reduction of the price of the reserved sections to \$1 25, he should be much obliged; but he did not think it would be well for those who came from the section of the Union in which the lands lay to do so. He wished it, then, to be understood that he did not join in the warfare against the principle which had engaged the minds of some members of Congress who were favorable to improvements in the western country.

There was a good deal of force, he admitted, in what fell from the chairman of the Committee on Territories. It might be that there was no precise justice in raising the price of the reserved sections to \$2 50 per acre. It might be proper that the price should be enhanced to some extent, though not to double the usual price; but he should be glad to have such an appropriation with the reserved sections at \$2 50; he should be better pleased to have the price of those sections at something less; and he should be still better pleased to have them without any enhancement at all.

There was one portion of the argument of the gentleman from Indiana, the chairman of the Committee on Territories, [Mr. SMITH,] which he wished to take occasion to say that he did not view as unsound. He alluded to the statement that the General Government was interested in these internal improvements being made, inasmuch as they increased the value of the lands that were unsold, and they enabled the Government to sell lands which could not be sold without them. Thus, then, the Government gained by internal improvements, as well as by the general good which the people derived from them, and it might be, therefore, that the lands should not be sold for more than \$1 50 instead of the price being doubled. He, however, merely mentioned this in passing, for he only rose to state, as the principle of giving these lands for the purposes which he had mentioned had

been laid hold of and considered favorably, and as there were some gentlemen who had constitutional scruples about giving money for these purposes, who would not hesitate to give land, that he was not willing to have it understood that he was one of those who made war against that principle. This was all he desired to say, and having accomplished the object with which he rose, he withdrew his motion to reconsider.

POSTMASTERS' COMMISSIONS.

Mr. BOCOCK called up a motion made by him on the 18th ultimo to reconsider the vote by which the House passed an act in amendment of an act entitled "An act to amend the act entitled 'An act to reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of fraud on the revenues of the Post Office Department,'" passed the 3d of March, 1845.

The SPEAKER stated the question to be on the motion to reconsider; and at the same time announced that the bill had been obtained from the Senate, and was consequently before the House.

Mr. BOCOCK then spoke in explanation of his purpose, which more particularly referred to the compensation by commissions of the postmasters, and the mode of calculating those commissions, which he contended were an inadequate remuneration for the services rendered.

Mr. VINTON moved the previous question.

Mr. STEPHENS moved to lay the motion to reconsider on the table. Decided in the negative by yeas and nays: Yeas 40, nays 115.

Mr. VINTON, at the request of Mr. GOGGIN, withdrew the motion for the previous question.

Mr. GOGGIN made a statement of facts showing the deficiency in the compensation of certain classes of deputy postmasters, and explained certain amendments which he wished to offer to remedy the obvious injustice under which these small officers now labored; and in the course of his remarks yielded to Mr. STARKWEATHER, who made a brief statement bearing on the same point.

Mr. G., in compliance with his pledge, renewed the demand for the previous question, which was seconded, and the main question was ordered, being first on the motion to reconsider.

The question being taken, the vote was reconsidered.

The question recurring on the passage of the bill—

Mr. GOGGIN moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill had been ordered to be engrossed, in order to enable him to offer the amendments which he had indicated.

The motion to reconsider not being in order, as coming too late, after some conversation as to the proper mode of effecting what seemed to be a generally desired amendment, the bill was recommitted for this purpose to the Committee on the Post office and Post Roads.

REVOLUTIONARY AND OTHER PENSIONS.

On motion of Mr. VINTON, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. COBB, of Georgia, in the chair.)

The committee took up the bill making appropriations for the payment of revolutionary and other pensions of the United States for the year ending the 30th of June, 1849, which was under consideration on the 12th of April last.

When the committee were last in session on this bill, Mr. VINTON moved to amend the item "for revolutionary pensions under the act of the 18th of March, 1818, \$4,122 57," by striking out four thousand and inserting "in addition to an unexpended balance remaining in the treasury of \$83,877 43, fourteen thousand;" so as to increase the appropriation from four to fourteen thousand one hundred and twenty-two dollars and fifty-seven cents, in addition to the unexpended balance.

Mr. ROCKWELL, of Connecticut, addressed the committee. More than two months since (said he) I called the attention of the House to some very serious errors in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury. They were of a character to require either an acknowledgment of their correctness or an explanation of the apparent discrepancies. Such an explanation was promised by the ex-chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, but has not been given. A month since, the official organ of the Administration promised the next day to give an official statement in relation to the charges which I had made, but no such statement has been given. Some letter-writers, apparently in the confidence