

used by the Government of the United States as an agricultural experiment station may continue to be used for such purpose until abandoned for that use by an order of the President of the United States or by Act of Congress.”

**§ 852a. Applications for unsurveyed lands; regulations; acreage requirements**

The Secretary of the Interior may issue regulations governing applications for unsurveyed lands. If he establishes any minimum acreage requirements, they shall provide for selection of tracts of reasonable size, taking into consideration location, terrain, and adjacent land ownership and uses.

(Pub. L. 89-470, § 3, June 24, 1966, 80 Stat. 220.)

**§ 852b. Survey of lands prior to transfer; time for survey; availability of funds; lands suitable for transfer**

Prior to issuance of an instrument of transfer, lands must be surveyed. The Secretary of the Interior shall within five years, subject to the availability of funds, survey the exterior boundaries of lands approved as suitable for transfer to the State.

(Pub. L. 89-470, § 4, June 24, 1966, 80 Stat. 220.)

**§ 853. Selections in Utah to supply deficiencies of school lands**

All the provisions of sections 851 and 852 of this title, which provide for the selection of lands for educational purposes in lieu of those appropriated for other purposes, are made applicable to the State of Utah, and the grant of school lands to said State, including sections 2 and 32 in each township, and indemnity therefor, shall be administered and adjusted in accordance with the provisions of said sections, anything in the Act approved July 16, 1894, providing for the admission of said State into the Union, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Wherever the words “sections 16 and 36” occur in said sections, the same as applicable to the State of Utah shall read: “sections 2, 16, 32, and 36”, and wherever the words “sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections” occur the same shall read: “second, sixteenth, thirty-second, and thirty-sixth sections”, and wherever the words “sections 16 or 36” occur the same shall read: “sections 2, 16, 32, or 36”, and wherever the words “two sections” occur the same shall read “four sections.”

(May 3, 1902, ch. 683, §§ 1, 2, 32 Stat. 188, 189.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act approved July 16, 1894, referred to in text, is act July 16, 1894, ch. 138, 28 Stat. 107. Provisions of such act relating to admission of Utah into the Union are not classified to the Code.

**§ 854. Selections in New Mexico to supply deficiencies of school lands**

All the provisions of sections 851 and 852 of this title are made applicable to New Mexico, and the grant of school lands to said State, and indemnity therefor, shall be administered and adjusted in accordance with the provisions of such sections, anything in the Act of Congress

approved June 21, 1898, making certain grants of land to the Territory of New Mexico, and for other purposes, to the contrary notwithstanding.

(Mar. 16, 1908, ch. 88, 35 Stat. 44.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of Congress approved June 21, 1898, referred to in text, is act June 21, 1898, ch. 489, 30 Stat. 484, which is not classified to the Code.

References to “Territory” of New Mexico were superseded by the admission of New Mexico into the Union by act June 30, 1910, ch. 310, 36 Stat. 557, and Res. Aug. 21, 1911, No. 8, 37 Stat. 39.

**§ 855. Omitted**

CODIFICATION

Section, act Mar. 2, 1923, ch. 184, 42 Stat. 1429, authorized Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands to State of Wyoming which were to be selected in lieu of tract numbered 60, township 56, north, of range 69 west of the sixth principal meridian in that State.

**§ 856. Selection of school lands on ceded Indian reservations**

Any State or Territory entitled to indemnity school lands or entitled to select lands for educational purposes under law existing prior to March 2, 1895, may select such lands within the boundaries of any Indian reservation in such State or Territory from the surplus lands thereof, purchased by the United States after allotments have been made to the Indians of such reservation, and prior to the opening of such reservation to settlement.

(Mar. 2, 1895, ch. 188, § 1, 28 Stat. 899.)

**§ 857. Grant to new States**

There is granted, for purposes of internal improvement, to each new State admitted into the Union, after September 4, 1841, upon such admission, so much public land as, including the quantity that was granted to such State before its admission and while under a territorial government, will make five hundred thousand acres.

The selections of lands, granted in this section, shall be made within the limits of each State so admitted into the Union, in such manner as the legislatures thereof, respectively, may direct; and such lands shall be located in parcels conformably to sectional divisions and subdivisions of not less than three hundred and twenty acres in any one location, on any public land not reserved from sale by law of Congress or by proclamation of the President. The locations may be made at any time after the public lands in any such new State have been surveyed according to law.

(R.S. §§ 2378, 2379.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. §§ 2378, 2379 derived from act Sept. 4, 1841, ch. 16, § 8, 5 Stat. 455.

GRANTS NOT TO EXTEND TO ALASKA

Admission of Alaska into the Union was accomplished Jan. 3, 1959, on issuance of Proc. No. 3269, Jan. 3, 1959, 24 F.R. 81, 73 Stat. c16, as required by sections 1 and 8(c) of Pub. L. 85-508, July 7, 1958, 72 Stat. 339, set out as notes preceding section 21 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

Land grant under Alaska Statehood provisions in lieu of grant of land under this section (declared not to extend to Alaska), see section 6(7) of Pub. L. 85-508, set out as a note preceding section 21 of Title 48.

#### § 858. Grants to counties for seats of justice

There shall be granted to the several counties or parishes of each State and Territory, where there are public lands, at the minimum price for which public lands of the United States are sold, the right of preemption to one quarter section of land, in each of the counties or parishes, in trust for such counties or parishes, respectively, for the establishment of seats of justice therein; but the proceeds of the sale of each of such quarter section shall be appropriated for the purpose of erecting public buildings in the county or parish for which it is located, after deducting therefrom the amount originally paid for the same. And the seat of justice for such counties or parishes, respectively, shall be fixed previously to a sale of the adjoining lands within the county or parish for which the same is located.

(R.S. § 2286.)

#### CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2286 derived from act May 26, 1824, ch. 169, § 1, 4 Stat. 50.

#### § 859. Fee simple to pass in all grants

Where lands have been or may hereafter be granted by any law of Congress to any one of the several States and Territories, and where such law does not convey the fee-simple title of the lands, or require patents to be issued therefor, the list of such lands which have been or may hereafter be certified by the Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate, under the seal of his office, either as originals or copies of the originals or records shall be regarded as conveying the fee simple of all the lands embraced in such lists that are of the character contemplated by such Act of Congress, and intended to be granted thereby, but where lands embraced in such lists are not of the character embraced by such Acts of Congress, and are not intended to be granted thereby, the lists, so far as these lands are concerned, shall be perfectly null and void, and no right, title, claim, or interest shall be conveyed thereby.

(R.S. § 2449; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100.)

#### CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2449 derived from acts Aug. 3, 1854, ch. 201, 10 Stat. 346; Mar. 3, 1875, ch. 139, § 8, 18 Stat. 475.

#### TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§ 1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out under section 1451 of this title.

“Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate” substituted for “Commissioner of the General Land Office” on authority of section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946. See note set out under section 1 of this title.

#### § 860. Repealed. Dec. 16, 1930, ch. 14, § 1, 46 Stat. 1029

Section, act Feb. 27, 1913, ch. 85, §§ 1-3, 37 Stat. 687, related to selection of phosphate or oil lands by State of Idaho under indemnity and other land grants. See sections 121 to 123 of Title 30, Mineral Lands and Mining.

#### § 861. Preference right of selection granted certain Western States; bona fide settlers

The States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, and Washington shall have a preference right over any person or corporation to select lands subject to entry by said States by the Act of Congress approved February 22, 1889, for a period of sixty days after lands have been surveyed and duly declared to be subject to selection and entry under the general land laws of the United States.

Such preference right shall not accrue against bona fide homestead or preemption settlers on any of said lands at the date of filing of the plat of survey of any township in any local land office of said States.

(Mar. 3, 1893, ch. 208, 27 Stat. 592.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act February 22, 1889, referred to in text, is act Feb. 22, 1889, ch. 180, 25 Stat. 676. Provisions relating to admission of the enumerated States into the Union are not classified to the Code.

#### § 862. Omitted

#### CODIFICATION

Section, act June 18, 1874, ch. 305, 18 Stat. 80, provided for issuance of patents for lands granted State of Oregon prior to June 18, 1874, upon certificate of Governor that wagon roads had been built over those lands in accordance with terms of grants.

#### § 863. Survey of lands granted to certain Western States

It shall be lawful for the Governors of the States of Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming to apply to the Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate for the survey of any township or townships of public land then remaining unsurveyed in any of the several surveying districts, with a view to satisfy the public land grants made by the several Acts admitting the said States into the Union to the extent of the full quantity of land called for thereby; and upon the application of said governors the Secretary or such officer shall proceed to immediately notify such officer as may be designated by the Secretary of the application made by the governor of any of the said States of the application made for the withdrawal of said lands, and the officer so designated shall proceed to have the survey or surveys so applied for made, as in the cases of surveys of public lands; and the lands that may be found to fall within the limits of such township or townships, as ascertained by the survey, shall be reserved upon the filing of the application for survey from any adverse appropriation by settlement or otherwise except under rights that may be found to exist of prior inception, for a period to extend from such application for survey until the expiration of sixty days from the date of the filing of the township