
U. S. HOMESTEAD LAW.—

The law of June 2, 1866, providing for the disposal of the public lands in the Southern States for homestead settlements is now in force. The first section of the act provides for the disposal of the lands in the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Florida, for homestead settlements only, according to the provisions of the original homestead act of May 20, 1862, and the amendatory act of March 21, 1864, but restricts each entry to eighty acres, held at \$1 25 per acre, or half that quantity of double minimum land. This restriction as to quality continues until the expiration of two years from the date of the act, and entries after that will be allowed, as provided for in the original laws and the act amendatory thereof, unless otherwise ordered by Congress.

In lieu of the ten-dollars fee required by the act of 1862 to be paid at the time of entry, five dollars must be paid when the patent issues. The benefits of the act are extended to all citizens of the United States, without distinction as to race or color. The above provisions have special applications to the States mentioned, while the second section of the act is of general application to all the States and Territories, and provides that until the first of January, 1867, the applicant shall make affidavit that he has not borne arms against the United States, or given aid or comfort to its enemies. The law is of further general application in this, that the fee is reduced to five dollars when the entry shall not embrace more than eighty acres at \$1 25 per acre. The provision of the acts of 1862 and 1864, except as modified by the act of June 2, 1866, are made a part of the last-mentioned act.