

have been established by an order of even date herewith.

And, whereas, all of the conditions required by law to be performed prior to the opening of said tracts of land to settlement and entry have been, as I hereby declare, duly performed.

OPENING ON AUGUST 6.

Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the power vested in me by law, do hereby declare and make known that all of the lands so, as aforesaid, ceded by the Wichita and affiliated bands of Indians, and the Comanche, Kiowa and Apache tribes of Indians, respectively, saving and excepting sections 16, 36, 13 and 33 in each township, and all lands located or selected by the territory of Oklahoma as indemnity school or educational lands, and saving and excepting all lands allotted in severalty to individual Indians, and saving and excepting all lands allotted and confirmed to religious societies and other organizations, and saving and excepting the lands selected and set aside as grazing lands for the use in common for said Comanche, Kiowa and Apache tribes of Indians, and saving and excepting the lands set aside and reserved at each of said county seats for disposition as town sites, and saving and excepting the lands now used, occupied or set apart for military, agency, school, school farm, religious, Indian cemetery, war reserve, forest reserve or other public uses, will, on the sixth day of August, 1901, at 9 o'clock a. m., in the manner herein prescribed and not otherwise, be opened to entry and settlement and to disposition under the general provisions of the homestead and town site laws of the United States.

REGISTRATION BEGINS JULY 10

Commencing at 9 o'clock a. m., Wednesday, July 10, 1901, and ending at 6 o'clock p. m., Friday, July 26, 1901, a registration will be had at the United States land offices at El Reno and Lawton, in the territory of Oklahoma (the office at Lawton to occupy provisional quarters in the immediate vicinity of Fort Sill, Okla., until suitable quarters can be provided at Lawton, for the purpose of ascertaining what persons desire to enter, settle upon, and acquire title to any of said lands under the homestead law, and of ascertaining their qualifications so to do. The registration at each office will be for both land districts, but at the time of registration each applicant will be required to elect and state in which district he desires to make entry. To obtain registration each applicant will be required to show himself duly qualified to make homestead entry of those lands under existing laws and to give the registering officer such appropriate matters of description and identity as will protect the applicant and the government against any attempted impersonation.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS FAVORED

Registration cannot be effected through the use of the mails or the employment of an agent, excepting that honorably discharged soldiers and sailors entitled to the benefits of section 2304 of the revised statutes of the United States, as amended by the act of congress approved March 1, 1901, (31 Stat., 847), may present their applications for registration and due proofs of their qualifications through an agent of their own selection, but no person will be permitted to act as agent for more than one such soldier or sailor. No person will be permitted to register more than once or in any other than his true name.

MAY EXAMINE LANDS.

Each applicant who shows himself duly qualified will be registered and given a non-transferable certificate to that effect, which will entitle him to go upon and examine the lands to be opened hereunder in the land district

in which he elects to make his entry; but the only purpose for which he may go upon and examine said lands is that of enabling him later on, as herein provided, to understandingly select the lands for which he will make entry.

"SOONERS" ARE BARRED.

No one will be permitted to make settlement upon any of said lands in advance of the opening herein provided for, and during the first sixty days following said opening no one but registered applicants will be permitted to make homestead settlement upon any of said lands, and then only in pursuance of a homestead entry, duly allowed by the local land officers, or of a soldier's declaratory statement, duly accepted by such officers.

DETAILS OF LOTTERY SYSTEM.

The order in which, during the first sixty days following the opening, the registered applicants will be permitted to make homestead entry of the lands opened hereunder, will be determined by drawing for both the El Reno and Lawton districts, publicly held at the United States land office at El Reno, Okla., commencing at 9 o'clock a. m., Monday, July 29, 1901, and continuing for such period as may be necessary to complete the same.

The drawings will be had under the supervision and immediate observance of a committee of three persons, whose integrity is such as to make their control of the drawing a guaranty of its fairness. The members of this committee will be appointed by the secretary of the interior, who will prescribe suitable compensation for their services.

CARDS FOR HOMESTEADERS.

Preparatory to these drawings the registration officers will, at the time of registration each applicant who shows himself duly qualified, make out a card, which must be signed by the applicant, stating the land district in which he desires to make homestead entry, and giving such a description of the applicant as will enable the local land officers to thereafter identify him. This card will be at once sealed in a separate envelope, which will bear no other distinguishing label or mark than such as may be necessary to show that it is to go into the drawing for the land district in which the applicant desires to make entry.

EQUAL CHANCE FOR ALL.

These envelopes will be separated according to land districts and will be carefully preserved and remain sealed until opened in the course of the drawing as herein provided. When the registration is completed all of these sealed envelopes will be brought together at the place of drawing and turned over to the committee in charge of the drawing, who, in such manner as in their judgment will be attended with entire fairness and equality of opportunity, shall proceed to draw out and open the separate envelopes and to give to each inclosed card a number in the order in which the envelope containing the same is drawn. While the drawings for the two districts will be separately conducted, they will occur as nearly at the same time as is practicable. The result of the drawing for each district will be certified by the committee to the officers of the district and will determine the order in which the applicants may make homestead entry of said lands and settlement thereon.

WINNERS TO BE NOTIFIED.

Notice of the drawings stating the name of each applicant and number assigned to him by the drawing will be posted each day at the place of drawing, and each applicant will be notified of his number by a postal card, mailed to him at the address, if any, given by him at the time of registration. Each applicant should, however in his own behalf, employ such measures as will insure his obtaining prompt and accurate information of

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the order in which his application for homestead entry can be presented as fixed by the drawing. Applications for homestead entry of said lands during the first sixty days following the opening can be made only by registered applicants, and in the order established by the drawing.

WHEN TO FILE APPLICATIONS.

At each land office, commencing Tuesday, August 6, 1901, at 9 o'clock a. m., the applications of those drawing numbers 1 to 125, inclusive, for that district must be presented and will be considered in their numerical order during the first day, and the applications of those drawing numbers 125 to 250, inclusive, must be presented and will be considered in their numerical order during the second day, and so on at that rate until all of said lands subject to entry under the homestead law, and desired thereunder, have been entered. If any applicant fails to appear and present his application for entry when the number assigned to him by the drawing is reached, his right to enter will be passed until after the other applications assigned for that day have been disposed of, when he will be given another opportunity to make entry, failing in which he will be deemed to have abandoned his right to make entry under such drawing.

CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED.

To obtain the allowance of a homestead entry each applicant must personally present the certificate of registration therefore issued to him, together with a regular homestead application and the necessary accompanying proofs, and with the regular land office fees, but an honorably discharged soldier or sailor may file his declaratory statement through the agent representing him at the registration. The production of the certificate of registration will be dispensed with only upon satisfactory proof of its loss or destruction. If at the time of considering his regular application for entry it appears that any applicant is disqualified from making homestead entry of these lands his application will be rejected, notwithstanding his prior registration.

PENALTY FOR FRAUD.

If any applicant shall register more than once hereunder, or in any other than his true name, or shall transfer his registration certificate he will thereby lose all the benefits of the registration and drawing herein provided for, and will be precluded from entering or settling upon any of said lands during the first sixty days following said opening.

"NEUTRAL STRIP" REGULATION.

Because of the provision in the said act of congress approved June 6, 1900, "That the settlers who located on that part of said lands called and known as the 'neutral strip' shall have preference right for thirty days on the lands upon which they have located and improved," the said lands in the "neutral strip" shall for the period of thirty days after said opening be subject to homestead entry and townsite entry only by those who have heretofore located upon and improved the same, and who are accorded a preference right of entry for thirty days as aforesaid. Persons entitled to make entry under this preference right will be permitted to do so at any time during said period of thirty days following the opening without previous registration, and without regard to the drawing herein provided for, and at the expiration of that period the lands in said "neutral strip" for which no entry shall have been made will come under the general provisions of this proclamation.

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provision in the said acts of congress, approved, respectively, March 2, 1895, and June 6, 1900, which authorizes a qualified entryman having lands adjoining the ceded lands whose original entry embraced less than 160 acres, to enter so much of the ceded lands as will make his homestead entry contain in the aggregate not exceeding 160 acres, may obtain such an extension of his existing entry, without previous registration and without regard to the drawing herein provided for, only by making appropriate application, accompanied by the necessary proofs, at the proper new land office at some time prior to the opening herein provided for.

AS TO TOWN SITES.

Any person or persons desiring to found or to suggest establishing a townsite upon any of said ceded lands at any point not in the near vicinity of either of the county seats therein heretofore selected and designated, as aforesaid, may, at any time before the opening herein provided for, file in the proper local land office a written application to that effect describing by legal subdivisions the lands intended to be affected and stating fully and under oath the necessity or propriety of founding or establishing a town at that place. The local officers will forthwith transmit said petition to the commissioner of the general land office with their recommendation in the premises. Such commissioner, if he believes the public interests will be subserved thereby, will, if the secretary of the interior approve thereof, issue an order withdrawing the lands described in such petition or any portion thereof from homestead entry and settlement and directing that the same be held for the time being for townsite settlement, entry and disposition only. In such event the lands so withheld from homestead entry and settlement will, at the time of said opening and not before, become subject to settlement, entry and disposition under the general townsite laws of the United States. None of said ceded lands will be subject to settlement, entry or disposition under such general townsite laws except in the manner herein prescribed, until after the expiration of sixty days from the time of said opening.

COUNTY SEAT LANDS.

Attention is hereby especially called to the fact that under the special pro-