

Limit upon con-  
tracts, expenditures,  
etc.

States, and set apart as reserved forest lands under like limitations, restrictions and provisions, Sections five and six in township fourteen, south, range twenty-eight, east of Mount Diablo meridian, and also Sections thirty-one and thirty-two of township thirteen, south, range twenty-eight east of the same meridian. Nothing in this act shall authorize rules or contracts touching the protection and improvement of said reservations, beyond the sums that may be received by the Secretary of the Interior under the foregoing provisions, or authorize any charge against the Treasury of the United States.

Approved, October 1, 1890.

October 1, 1890.

**CHAP. 1264.**—An act to reconvey certain lands to the county of Ormsby, State of Nevada.

Ormsby County,  
Nevada.  
Secretary of the Interior to reconvey lands in, not accepted for Indian schools.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to reconvey to the county of Ormsby, in the State of Nevada, the land conveyed to the United States by S. C. Wright, in behalf of said county, on the ninth day of July, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, for the purposes of an Indian industrial school, in pursuance of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, and for other purposes," approved June twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight; the Indian Department having rejected said land and the county of Ormsby having conveyed other land to the United States for said school, said rejected land being described as follows, to wit: The northwest quarter of section eight and the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section five north, range twenty east, Mount Diablo base and meridian, containing two hundred acres.

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Description.

Approved, October 1, 1890.

October 1, 1890.

**CHAP. 1265.**—An act to authorize the conveyance of certain Absentee Shawnee Indian lands in Kansas.

Preamble.

Whereas the following-described tracts of land, namely: The east half of the northeast quarter, and the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter, of section twenty-nine, in township twelve, range twenty-three east; and the south half of the southwest quarter of section five, and the south half of the southwest quarter, and the north half of the southwest quarter, and the northwest quarter of section eight, in township thirteen, range twenty-two east, in Johnson County, Kansas, and known as Absentee Shawnee Indian lands, were erroneously set apart and patents therefor improperly issued to Nancy Whitestone, George Silcambus, and Lewis Hayes, Shawnee Indians, who had previously received by patent from the United States the quantity of lands to which they were lawfully entitled; and

Whereas the patents so erroneously issued have not been canceled: Therefore,

Absentee Shawnee Indian lands, Kansas. Secretary of Interior to cancel erroneous patents, and dispose of lands to settlers.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized to revoke and cancel said patents, and said Secretary is also authorized to dispose of said lands and issue patents therefor to the settlers located thereon, in

accordance with the provisions of "A resolution for the relief of settlers upon the Absentee Shawnee lands in Kansas," approved April seventh, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, and an act explanatory of said resolution, approved January eleventh, eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

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Vol. 18, p. 235.

Approved, October 1, 1890.

**CHAP. 1266.**—An act to increase the efficiency and reduce the expenses of the Signal Corps of the Army, and to transfer the Weather Service to the Department of Agriculture.

October 1, 1890.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the civilian duties now performed by the Signal Corps of the Army shall hereafter devolve upon a bureau to be known as the Weather Bureau, which, on and after July first, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, shall be established in and attached to the Department of Agriculture, and the Signal Corps of the Army shall remain a part of the Military Establishment under the direction of the Secretary of War, and all estimates for its support shall be included with other estimates for the support of the Military Establishment.

Weather Bureau. Civilian duties of Signal Corps transferred to Department of Agriculture.

Signal Corps to remain part of Military Establishment.

**SEC. 2.** That the Chief Signal Officer shall have charge, under the direction of the Secretary of War, of all military signal duties, and of books, papers, and devices connected therewith, including telegraph and telephone apparatus and the necessary meteorological instruments for use on target ranges, and other military uses; the construction, repair, and operation of military telegraph lines, and the duty of collecting and transmitting information for the Army by telegraph or otherwise, and all other duties usually pertaining to military signaling; and the operations of said corps shall be confined to strictly military matters.

Chief Signal Officer. Duties confined to military matters.

**SEC. 3.** That the Chief of the Weather Bureau, under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, on and after July first, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, shall have charge of the forecasting of weather, the issue of storm warnings, the display of weather and flood signals for the benefit of agriculture, commerce, and navigation, the gauging and reporting of rivers, the maintenance and operation of sea-coast telegraph lines and the collection and transmission of marine intelligence for the benefit of commerce and navigation, the reporting of temperature and rain-fall conditions for the cotton interests, the display of frost and cold-wave signals, the distribution of meteorological information in the interests of agriculture and commerce, and the taking of such meteorological observations as may be necessary to establish and record the climatic conditions of the United States, or as are essential for the proper execution of the foregoing duties.

Chief of the Weather Bureau. Duties.

**SEC. 4.** That the Weather Bureau shall hereafter consist of one Chief of Weather Bureau and such civilian employees as Congress may annually provide for and as may be necessary to properly perform the duties devolving on said bureau by law, and the chief of said bureau shall receive an annual compensation of four thousand five hundred dollars, and be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate: *Provided,* That the Chief Signal Officer of the Army may, in the discretion of the President, be detailed to take charge of said bureau, and in like manner other officers of the Army, not exceeding four, expert in the duties of the weather service may be assigned to duty with the Weather Bureau, and while so serving shall receive the pay and allowances to which they are entitled by law.

Force of Weather Bureau.

Compensation of Chief.

*Proviso.*

Details from Army.

**SEC. 5.** That the enlisted force of the Signal Corps, excepting those hereinafter provided for, shall be honorably discharged from the

Discharge of enlisted men, Signal Corps.