

such change shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of War; and the said structure shall at all times be so kept and managed as to offer reasonable and proper means for the passage of vessels through or under said structure; and for the safety of vessels passing at night there shall be displayed on said bridge, from the hours of sunset to sunrise, such lights as may be prescribed by the Light-House Board; and the said structure shall be changed or removed, at the cost and expense of the owners thereof, from time to time, as the Secretary of War may direct, so as to preserve the free and convenient navigation of said river; and the authority to erect and continue said bridge shall be subject to revocation and modification by law when the public good shall, in the judgment of Congress, so require, without any expense or charge to the United States.

Lights, etc.

SEC. 5. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Amendment, etc.

SEC. 6. That this Act shall be null and void if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized be not commenced within six months and completed within two years from the date thereof.

Commencement and completion.

Approved, March 23, 1896.

CHAP. 73.—An Act To regulate the issue and recording of the commissions of officers in several of the Departments.

March 23, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That hereafter the commissions of all officers under the direction and control of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of Agriculture shall be made out and recorded in the respective Departments under which they are to serve, and the Department seal affixed thereto, any laws to the contrary notwithstanding: *Provided*, That the said seal shall not be affixed to any such commission before the same shall have been signed by the President of the United States.

Commissions.  
To be issued by Treasury, Navy, War, and Agriculture Departments.  
R. S., sec. 1794, p. 318, amended.

*Proviso.*  
To be first signed by President.

Approved, March 28, 1896.

CHAP. 74.—An Act To amend section nine of an Act entitled "An Act to provide for the appointment of a sealer and assistant sealer of weights and measures in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes."

March 28, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section nine of the Act approved March second, eighteen hundred and ninety-five, entitled "An Act for the appointment of a sealer and assistant sealer of weights and measures in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes," be, and the same is hereby, amended, so as to read as follows:

District of Columbia.  
Sealer of weights and measures.  
Vol. 23, p. 812.

"SEC. 9. That no person shall use for buying or selling, or for weighing freight or express matter, any weights, measures, scales, or other instruments, unless the same shall have been examined and approved by the sealer or assistant sealer of weights and measures. The fact and the date of such examination and approval and the period for which such examination and approval shall hold good shall be certified to with the seal of the sealer of weights and measures. Such certificates shall be attached in a conspicuous place to the weights, measures, scales, or other instruments so examined and approved; and such certificate shall be valid only for such time as the Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall provide in the schedule of fees hereinafter provided for: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall prevent at any time the examination and condemnation of any weights, measures, scales, or other instruments that may be found defective. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall prescribe the amount of tolerance to be allowed by the sealer of weights and measures, and all weights, measures, and balances that do not conform to the standards for weights

Use of unsealed weights, etc., forbidden.

Certificates of inspection.

*Proviso.*  
Examination.

Tolerance.

and measures in this Act provided for within the limit of tolerance so allowed may be seized by the sealer of weights and measures, and when so seized shall be destroyed by him, and a record of the same shall be duly entered on the books of his office. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section, or the use of any weights, measures, scales, or other instruments described in this section, before the payment of the fees fixed by the said Commissioners for examinations, shall render the person so failing or using liable to a fine of not more than twenty dollars and costs of prosecution for each offense, to be recovered in the police court of the District of Columbia; and the said court may make a further sentence that the offender be imprisoned in the District jail for any period not exceeding six months until the payment of such fine and costs."

Approved, March 28, 1896.

March 28, 1896.

**CHAP. 75.**—An Act To authorize the construction of a bridge across the Calumet River.

Hammond and Blue Island Railroad Company may bridge Calumet River, Hammond, Ill.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That it shall be lawful for the Hammond and Blue Island Railroad Company, a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Illinois, or its successors and assigns, to construct and maintain a bridge and approaches thereto across the Calumet River, in Cook County, in the State of Illinois, at a point on and opposite lot six in Snyder and Ambs's Illinois addition to Hammond, in section eight, township thirty-six north, range fifteen east of the third principal meridian; that said bridge may be constructed for railway and postal service, with single and double track for railway traffic, and which shall be under the conditions and limitations hereinafter specified.

Railroad bridge.

Unobstructed navigation.

**SEC. 2.** That said bridge shall not interfere with the free navigation of said river beyond what may be necessary to carry into effect the rights and privileges herein granted, and in case of any litigation arising under the provisions of this Act such litigation may be tried and determined by the circuit court of the United States within whose jurisdiction said bridge is located.

Litigation.

Lawful structure and post route.

**SEC. 3.** That any bridge built under the provisions of this Act and subject to its limitations shall be a lawful structure, and shall be recognized and known as a post route, upon which also no higher charge shall be made for the transmission over the same of the mails, the troops, and the munitions of war of the United States, or passengers or freight passing over the said bridge, than the rate per mile paid for the transportation over the railroad or public highways leading to the said bridge; and it shall enjoy the rights and privileges of other post roads in the United States; and the United States shall have the right of way across said bridge and its approaches for postal-telegraph purposes, and all telegraph and telephone companies shall have equal rights and privileges in constructing and maintaining their lines across said bridge.

Draw.

**SEC. 4.** That said bridge shall be constructed as a drawbridge of such character of construction and having such width of draw openings and such elevation above high water as the Secretary of War may prescribe; and the draw openings of said bridge shall be so protected and arranged that water craft can be worked through them at any and all times; and the piers of said bridge shall be parallel with, and the bridge itself at right angles to, the current of the river: *Provided,* That said draw shall be opened promptly upon reasonable signals for the passage of boats, and said company or corporation shall maintain, at its own expense, from sunset until sunrise, such lights or other signals on said bridge as the Light-House Board shall prescribe. If any bridge erected under such authority shall, in the opinion of the Secretary of War, obstruct such navigation, he is hereby authorized to cause such

Postal telegraph. Use by telegraph, etc., companies.

Proviso. Opening draw.

Lights, etc.