

at its own expense, from sunset to sunrise, such lights or other signals on said bridge as the Light-House Board shall prescribe.

SEC. 5. That all telephone and telegraph companies shall be granted equal rights and privileges in the construction and operation of their lines across said bridge; and if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized shall not be commenced within one year from the passage of this Act, and be completed within three years from same date, the rights and privileges hereby granted shall cease and be determined.

Telegraph and telephone lines.

Commencement and completion.

Approved, February 26, 1897.

CHAP. 335.—An Act To provide for the use and occupation of reservoir sites reserved.

February 26, 1897.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all reservoir sites reserved or to be reserved shall be open to use and occupation under the right-of-way Act of March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-one. And any State is hereby authorized to improve and occupy such reservoir sites to the same extent as an individual or private corporation, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe: Provided, That the charges for water coming in whole or part from reservoir sites used or occupied under the provisions of this Act shall always be subject to the control and regulation of the respective States and Territories in which such reservoirs are in whole or part situate.*

Public lands.  
Rights of way, reservoir sites.  
Vol. 26, p. 1101.

Proviso.  
Water charges.

Approved, February 26, 1897.

CHAP. 336.—An Act Concerning certain homestead lands in Florida.

February 26, 1897.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all persons actually occupying homesteads in good faith in any of the following-named counties, in said State of Florida, to wit, Alachua, Lafayette, Levy, Suwannee, Bradford, Baker, and Columbia, at the time of the storm on or about September twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and ninety-six, are hereby granted the right to sell or otherwise dispose of the fallen timber on their homestead entries felled by said storm, and to devote the proceeds of such sale or barter to the improvement of their homesteads or support of themselves or their families.*

Florida.  
Timber destroyed by cyclone may be sold by homestead settlers.

Approved, February 26, 1897.

CHAP. 340.—An Act To amend the postal laws, providing limited indemnity for loss of registered mail matter.

February 27, 1897.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section thirty-nine hundred and twenty-six of the Revised Statutes be amended so as to read as follows:*

Postal service.

“SEC. 3926. For the greater security of valuable mail matter the Postmaster-General may establish a uniform system of registration, and as a part of such system he may provide rules under which the sender or owners of first-class registered matter shall be indemnified for losses thereof in the mails, the indemnity to be paid out of the postal revenues, but in no case to exceed ten dollars for any one registered piece, or the actual value thereof when that is less than ten dollars, and for which no other compensation or reimbursement to the loser has been made: *Provided, That the Post-Office Department or its revenues shall not be liable for the loss of any other mail matter on account of its having been registered.*”

Indemnity for losses of registered matter.  
R. S., sec. 3926, p. 762, amended.

Limit.

Proviso.  
Confined to first-class matter.

Approved, February 27, 1897.