

CHAP. 206.—An Act To authorize the Saint Louis, Siloam and Southern Railroad Company, of Missouri and Arkansas, to construct a bridge across White River in the State of Arkansas.

February 27, 1899.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Saint Louis, Siloam and Southern Railroad Company, of Missouri and Arkansas, a corporation created and existing by virtue of the law of the State of Arkansas, its successors and assigns, be, and is hereby, authorized to construct and maintain a bridge across White River in the State of Arkansas for the crossing of said river with its railroad line at such point as may be selected by the said railroad company and approved by the Secretary of War. Said bridge shall be constructed to provide for the passage of railroad trains, and, at the option of said railroad company, may be used for the passage of wagons and vehicles of all kinds, for the transit of animals, and for foot passengers, for such reasonable rates of toll as may be fixed by the said railroad company and approved by the Secretary of War.

St. Louis, Siloam, and Southern Railroad may bridge White River, Arkansas.

May be railroad, etc., bridge.

Toll.

To be lawful structure and post route.

Telegraph, etc., companies.

SEC. 2. That any bridge built under this Act and subject to its limitations shall be a lawful structure, and shall be recognized and known as a post route; and shall enjoy the same rights and privileges as other post roads in the United States; and equal privileges in the use of said bridge shall be granted to all telegraph and telephone companies; and the United States shall have the right of way across said bridge and its approaches for postal telegraph purposes.

Rights of railroads to use.

SEC. 3. That all railroad companies desiring the use of said bridge shall have and be entitled to equal rights and privileges relative to the passage of railway trains over the same and over the approaches thereto, and upon the payment of a reasonable compensation for such use; and in case the owner or owners of said bridge and the several railroad companies, or any of them desiring such use, shall fail to agree upon the sum or sums to be paid, and upon the rules and conditions to which each shall conform in using said bridge, all matters at issue between them shall be decided by the Secretary of War, upon a hearing of the allegations and proofs of the parties.

—disagreement with owner of bridge.

SEC. 4. That the bridge authorized to be constructed under this Act shall be built under and subject to such regulations for the security of the navigation of said river as the Secretary of War shall prescribe, and to secure that object the said company or corporation shall submit to the Secretary of War for his examination and approval designs and drawings of the bridge, and a map of the location, giving all details necessary to enable the Secretary of War to judge whether the location selected is a proper one; and until the said plans and location are approved by the Secretary of War the bridge shall not be commenced or built; and should any changes be made in the plans of said bridge during the progress of construction, such changes shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of War, and all changes in said bridge required by the Secretary of War at any time, or its entire removal, shall be at the expense of the corporation owning or operating said bridge.

Secretary of War to make regulations.

—to approve plans.

—changes.

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

Amendment.

SEC. 6. That this Act shall be null and void if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized is not commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date hereof.

Commencement and completion.

Approved, February 27, 1899.

CHAP. 207.—An Act Withdrawing from entry and sale and granting unto the State of Wisconsin certain lands therein described.

February 27, 1899.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following lands situated in the county of Juneau, in the State of Wisconsin, to wit: The

Grant to State of Wisconsin of lands at Juneau.

southwest quarter of the northwest quarter, and the west half of the southwest quarter of section twenty-two, in township seventeen, north of range two east, be, and the same hereby are, withdrawn from entry and sale, and the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to cause a patent therefor to be issued unto the State of Wisconsin: *Provided, however,* That said State shall pay to the United States therefor, at the rate of one and twenty-five one-hundredths dollars per acre: *And provided, further,* That said State shall first procure from all claimants or persons who may have filed or made homestead entries or other claims on or to said premises, or any part thereof, proper relinquishments of all their claims thereto, and cause the same to be filed with the Secretary of the Interior.

Approved, February 27, 1899.

February 27, 1899.

CHAP. 208.—An Act For the relief of the Fourth Arkansas Mounted Infantry.

Preamble.

Whereas during the latter part of eighteen hundred and sixty-three and the early part of eighteen hundred and sixty-four, under authority of Major-General Frederick Steele, dated October twenty-third, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, in northwestern Arkansas, several hundred men were recruited in Arkansas for the United States Army, and organized the Fourth Arkansas Mounted Infantry Volunteers, under the command of Elisha Baxter, colonel commanding, and were put into active service in Arkansas with other United States soldiers there, and were furnished arms, ammunition, and uniforms by the United States Government, and participated in several battles, and lost a number of men in killed and wounded; and

Whereas said regiment was disbanded in June, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, at Devall Bluff, Arkansas, without having been actually mustered into the service of the United States, and most of the members thereof then enlisted in other United States regiments, having then served as members of the said Fourth Arkansas Mounted Infantry for a period of from six to eight months; and

Whereas on account of never having been mustered into the Army of the United States the names of the members of said regiment do not appear on the rolls of the Army, and the members of said regiment have never received any pay for said services; and

Whereas Congress, by joint resolution approved March eighteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy, authorized the War Department to pay such claims as were satisfactorily proven, but, through the avarice of claims agents or others, rolls of the members of said regiment were made up largely in excess of the actual membership of said regiment, and this without the knowledge or fault of the actual members thereof, which led the War Department to refuse to make any payment thereon whatever; and

Whereas there remain about one hundred members of said regiment, now old and decrepit, and nearly all in destitute circumstances, to whom the pay so long due them from the Government would be a great relief in their declining years: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and is hereby, authorized and directed to appoint and detail a competent and experienced officer of the United States Army as referee, who shall have authority to administer oaths, who shall give notice of the times and places of taking testimony in the State of Arkansas or elsewhere, if necessary, that claimants and their witnesses may appear before him, and shall carefully examine into the facts and take proof upon the claims for service of the members of the Fourth Arkansas Mounted Infantry, and return the same, together with his report thereon, to the Secretary of War; and that the Secretary of War is hereby directed to pay such claims to the members of said regiment,

Provisos.
Payment.

Relinquishment of
homestead entries.

Fourth Arkansas
Mounted Infantry.
Investigation and pay-
ment of claim of, au-
thorized.