

homestead laws, as though such former entry had not been made, except that commutation under the provisions of section twenty-three hundred and one of the Revised Statutes shall not be allowed of an entry made under this section of this Act.

SEC. 3. That any person who prior to the passage of this Act, has made entry under the homestead laws, but from any cause has lost or forfeited the same shall be entitled to the benefits of the homestead laws as though such former entry had not been made: *Provided*, That persons who purchased land under and in accordance with the terms of an Act entitled "An Act to provide for the sale of lands patented to certain members of the Flathead band of Indians in the Territory of Montana, and for other purposes," approved March second, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, shall not be held to have impaired or exhausted their homestead rights by or on account of any such purchase.

Approved, June 5, 1900.

—for forfeiture.

Proviso.
Purchasers of Flathead Indian lands, Montana, included.
Vol. 25, p. 371.

June 5, 1900.

CHAP. 717.—An Act Relating to the allowance of exceptions.

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

"SEC. 953. That a bill of exceptions allowed in any cause shall be deemed sufficiently authenticated if signed by the judge of the court in which the cause was tried, or by the presiding judge thereof if more than one judge sat at the trial of the cause, without any seal of the court or judge annexed thereto. And in case the judge before whom the cause has heretofore been or may hereafter be tried is, by reason of death, sickness, or other disability, unable to hear and pass upon the motion for a new trial and allow and sign said bill of exceptions, then the judge who succeeds such trial judge, or any other judge of the court in which the cause was tried, holding such court thereafter, if the evidence in such cause has been or is taken in stenographic notes, or if the said judge is satisfied by any other means that he can pass upon such motion and allow a true bill of exceptions, shall pass upon said motion and allow and sign such bill of exceptions; and his ruling upon such motion and allowance and signing of such bill of exceptions shall be as valid as if such ruling and allowance and signing of such bill of exceptions had been made by the judge before whom such cause was tried; but in case said judge is satisfied that owing to the fact that he did not preside at the trial, or for any other cause, that he can not fairly pass upon said motion, and allow and sign said bill of exceptions, then he may in his discretion grant a new trial to the party moving therefor."

SEC. 2. That this Act shall apply to all causes now pending, and to all causes pending for hearing upon motion for new trials, and to all causes pending for the allowance of a bill of exceptions.

Approved, June 5, 1900.

United States courts. Bills of exceptions. R. S., sec. 953, p. 180, amended.

What is sufficient authentication.

Inability of trial judge to sign.

—other judges may sign, etc.

Pending cases included.

June 5, 1900.

CHAP. 718.—An Act Relating to certain railway corporations owning or operating street railways in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Anacostia and Potomac River Railroad Company, the Brightwood Railway Company of the District of Columbia, the Capital Railway Company, the City and Suburban Railway Company, the Columbia Railway Company, the

District of Columbia. Certain street railways may contract mutually for the use of their respective roads.