

Stamps on telegraph messages. Repeal. Vol. 30, p. 456. Effect.

SEC. 14. That section eighteen of said Act is hereby repealed.

SEC. 15. That the provisions of this Act shall take effect on and after the first day of July, nineteen hundred and one, except where otherwise expressly provided.

Approved, March 2, 1901.

March 2, 1901.

CHAP. 807.—An Act For the relief of settlers under the public-land laws to lands within the indemnity limits of the grant to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company.

Northern Pacific land grant. Plan for adjustment of claims within the indemnity limits of the grant extended. Vol. 30, p. 620, etc.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of the Act of July first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, appearing in thirtieth Statutes at Large, at pages six hundred and twenty, six hundred and twenty-one, and six hundred and twenty-two, providing a plan for the adjustment by the Land Department of conflicting claims to lands within the limits of the grant to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, are hereby extended and made applicable to all instances where lands in odd-numbered sections within the indemnity limits of the grant to said company were patented to settlers under the public-land laws in pursuance of applications presented to or proceedings initiated in, the local land office at a time when the land was embraced in a pending indemnity selection made by said company in conformity with the regulations of the Land Department, which indemnity selection has not since been waived or abandoned.

Approved, March 2, 1901.

March 2, 1901.

CHAP. 808.—An Act Authorizing the Attorney-General, upon the request of the Secretary of the Interior, to appear in suits brought by States relative to school lands.

Public lands. Secretary of the Interior may be substituted as party for Indian tribes in suits brought by States in the Supreme Court for school lands on Indian reservations.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in any suit heretofore or hereafter instituted in the Supreme Court of the United States to determine the right of a State to what are commonly known as school lands within any Indian reservation or any Indian cession where an Indian tribe claims any right to or interest in the lands in controversy, or in the disposition thereof by the United States, the right of such State may be fully tested and determined without making the Indian tribe, or any portion thereof, a party to the suit if the Secretary of the Interior is made a party thereto; and the duty of representing and defending the right or interest of the Indian tribe, or any portion thereof, in the matter shall devolve upon the Attorney-General upon the request of such Secretary.

Approved, March 2, 1901.

March 2, 1901.

CHAP. 809.—An Act To prevent the failure of military justice, and for other purposes.

Army. Refusal to qualify as witness before courts-martial.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That every person not belonging to the Army of the United States who, being duly subpoenaed to appear as a witness before a general court-martial of the Army, willfully neglects or refuses to appear, or refuses to qualify as a witness or to testify or produce documentary evidence which such person may have been legally subpoenaed to produce, shall be deemed guilty of a

—penalty.

misdemeanor, for which such person shall be punished on information in the district court of the United States; and it shall be the duty of the United States district attorney, on the certification of the facts to him by the general court-martial, to file an information against and prosecute the person so offending, and the punishment of such person, on conviction, shall be a fine of not more than five hundred dollars or imprisonment not to exceed six months, or both, at the discretion of the court: *Provided*, That this shall not apply to persons residing beyond the State, Territory, or District in which such general court-martial is held, and that the fees of such witness, and his mileage at the rates provided for witnesses in the United States district court for said State, Territory or District shall be duly paid or tendered said witness, such amounts to be paid by the Pay Department of the Army out of the appropriation for compensation of witnesses: *Provided*, That no witness shall be compelled to incriminate himself or to answer any questions which may tend to incriminate or degrade him.

—proceedings against.

Proviso.
—exceptions.

—witness fees to be tendered.

Proviso.
Self-incrimination not compelled.

Hours of sitting.
R. S., sec. 1342, p. 239, repealed.

Army officers may administer oaths.
R. S., sec. 183, p. 29, amended.

SEC. 2. That article ninety-four, section thirteen hundred and forty-two, of the Revised Statutes of the United States be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

SEC. 3. That section one hundred and eighty-three of the Revised Statutes of the United States be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

“SEC. 183. Any officer or clerk of any of the departments lawfully detailed to investigate frauds on, or attempts to defraud, the Government, or any irregularity or misconduct of any officer or agent of the United States, and any officer of the Army detailed to conduct an investigation, and the recorder, and, if there be none, the presiding officer of any military board appointed for such purpose, shall have authority to administer an oath to any witness attending to testify or depose in the course of such investigation.”

SEC. 4. That article eighty-three, section thirteen hundred and forty-two, of the Revised Statutes of the United States be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows:

“ARTICLE 83. Regimental and garrison courts-martial and summary courts detailed under existing laws to try enlisted men shall not have power to try capital cases or commissioned officers, but shall have power to award punishment not to exceed confinement at hard labor for three months or forfeiture of three months' pay, or both, and in addition thereto, in the case of noncommissioned officers reduction to the ranks and in the case of first-class privates reduction to second-class privates: *Provided*, That a summary court shall not adjudge confinement and forfeiture in excess of a period of one month, unless the accused shall before trial consent in writing to trial by said court, but in any case of refusal to so consent, the trial may be had either by general, regimental, or garrison court-martial, or by said summary court, but in case of trial by said summary court without consent as aforesaid, the court shall not adjudge confinement or forfeiture of pay for more than one month.”

Jurisdiction of courts-martial.
R. S., sec. 1342, p. 238, amended.

Proviso.
Trial by summary court with consent, etc.

SEC. 5. That article sixty, section thirteen hundred and forty-two, of the Revised Statutes of the United States be, and the same is hereby, amended by inserting after the words “shall, on conviction thereof, be punished by fine or imprisonment, or by such other punishment as a court-martial may adjudge,” the words “or by any or all of said penalties.”

Penalty for certain frauds against the United States.
R. S., sec. 1342, p. 236.

Approved, March 2, 1901.