

with all the vouchers, papers, proofs, and documents pertaining thereto, to be transmitted to the court of claims, and the same shall be there proceeded in as if originally commenced by the voluntary action of the claimant. And the Secretary of the Treasury may, upon the certificate of any auditor or comptroller of the treasury, direct any account, matter, or claim of the character, amount, or class described or limited in this section to be transmitted, with all the vouchers, papers, documents, and proofs pertaining thereto, to the said court of claims, for trial and adjudication: *Provided, however,* That no case shall be referred by any head of a department unless it belongs to one of the several classes of cases to which, by reason of the subject-matter and character, the said court of claims might, under existing laws, take jurisdiction on such voluntary action of the claimant. And all the cases mentioned in this section which shall be transmitted by the head of any executive department, or upon the certificate of any auditor or comptroller, shall be proceeded in as other cases pending in said court, and shall, in all respects, be subject to the same rules and regulations; and appeals from the final judgments or decrees of said court therein to the Supreme Court of the United States shall be allowed in the manner now provided by law. The amount of the final judgments or decrees in such cases so transmitted to said court, where rendered in favor of the claimants, shall in all cases be paid out of any specific appropriation applicable to the same, if any such there be; and where no such appropriation exists, the same shall be paid in the same manner as other judgments of said court.

Secretary of Treasury may send accounts, &c. to court of claims for trial, &c.

Cases only to be referred, over which the court would have jurisdiction, if commenced by claimant.

Proceedings in these cases.

Final judgments and decrees, how paid.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That no person shall file or prosecute any claim or suit in the court of claims, or an appeal therefrom, for or in respect to which he or any assignee of his shall have commenced and has pending any suit or process in any other court against any officer or person who, at the time of the cause of action alleged in such suit or process arose, was in respect thereto acting or professing to act, mediately or immediately, under the authority of the United States, unless such suit or process, if now pending in such other court, shall be withdrawn or dismissed within thirty days after the passage of this act.

Claims pending in other courts not to be prosecuted in court of claims, unless prior suit is withdrawn, &c.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the clerk of the said court of claims to transmit to Congress, at the commencement of every December session, a full and complete statement of all the judgments rendered by the said court for the previous year, stating the amounts thereof and the parties in whose favor rendered, together with a brief synopsis of the nature of the claims upon which said judgments have been rendered.

Clerk of court of claims to transmit to Congress statement of judgments rendered by said court, &c.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That all provisions of any act incompatible herewith be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Repeal of inconsistent laws.

APPROVED, June 25, 1868.

CHAP. LXXII. — *An Act constituting eight Hours a Day's Work for all Laborers, Workmen, and Mechanics employed by or on Behalf of the Government of the United States.* June 25, 1868.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That eight hours shall constitute a day's work for all laborers, workmen, and mechanics now employed, or who may be hereafter employed, by or on behalf of the government of the United States; and that all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Eight hours to constitute a day's work for mechanics, laborers, &c. employed by the United States.

APPROVED, June 25, 1868.