

Tennessee and Georgia Railroad Company, and the Nashville and Decatur Railroad Company, under the authority of the act of Congress approved March third, eighteen hundred and seventy one.

SEC 2. That when said claims have been adjusted in pursuance of the provisions of this act, the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized to issue his warrant on the Treasury of the United States to the governor of Georgia or his order for the amount of money it is found ought to be refunded to said railroad on account of said settlement.

Payment of balance authorized.

Approved, March 3, 1877.

CHAP. 120.—An act amending the pension-law so as to remove the disability of those who, having participated in the rebellion, have, since its termination, enlisted in the Army of the United States, and become disabled.

March 3, 1877.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the law prohibiting the payment of any money on account of pensions to any person, or to the widow, children, or heirs of any deceased person, who, in any manner, engaged in or aided or abetted the late rebellion against the authority of the United States, shall not be construed to apply to such persons as afterward voluntarily enlisted in the Army of the United States, and who, while in such service, incurred disability from a wound or injury received or disease contracted in the line of duty.

Law prohibiting pensions to persons aiding rebellion modified.

Approved, March 3, 1877.

CHAP. 121.—An act equalizing pensions of certain officers in the Navy

March 3, 1877.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That from and after the passage of this act, the pension for total disability of passed assistant engineers, assistant engineers, and cadet engineers in the naval service, respectively, shall be the same as the pensions allowed to officers of the line in the naval service with whom they have relative rank; and that all acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith be, and are hereby, repealed.

Pensions to engineers in Navy according to relative rank.

Approved, March 3, 1877.

CHAP. 122.—An act to amend section twenty-two hundred and ninety-one of the Revised Statutes of the United States, in relation to proof required in homestead entries.

March 3, 1877.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the proof of residence, occupation, or cultivation, the affidavit of non-alienation, and the oath of allegiance, required to be made by section twenty-two hundred and ninety-one of the Revised Statutes, may be made before the judge, or, in his absence, before the clerk, of any court of record of the county and State, or district and Territory, in which the lands are situated; and if said lands are situated in any unorganized county, such proof may be made in a similar manner in any adjacent county in said State or Territory; and the proof, affidavit, and oath, when so made and duly subscribed, shall have the same force and effect as if made before the register or receiver of the proper land-district; and the same shall be transmitted by such judge, or the clerk of his court, to the register and the receiver, with the fee and charges allowed by law to him; and the register and receiver shall be entitled to the same fees for examining and approving said testimony as are now allowed by law for taking the same.

Homesteader's affidavit of occupation, etc., before whom made. R. S., 2291, p. 422.

Affidavit transmitted to register; fees.

False affidavit.

SEC. 2. That if any witness making such proof, or the said applicant making such affidavit or oath, swears falsely as to any material matter contained in said proof, affidavits, or oaths, the said false swearing being willful and corrupt, he shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and shall be liable to the same pains and penalties as if he had sworn falsely before the register.

Approved, March 3, 1877.

March 3, 1877.

**CHAP. 123.**—An act for the relief of settlers on the public lands under the pre-emption laws.

Pre-emption entries may be changed to homestead entries with benefit of time.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That when any person who has made a settlement on the public lands under the pre-emption laws shall change his filing to that for a homestead entry, the time required to perfect his title under the homestead laws shall be computed from the date of his original settlement made under the pre-emption laws.

Approved, March 3, 1877.

March 3, 1877.

**CHAP. 124.**—An act to extend for two years the act establishing the Board of Commissioners of Claims and the acts relating thereto.

1871, ch. 116,  
16 Stat., 524,  
1872, ch. 156,  
17 Stat., 97.

Southern claims commission continued.

Proviso.

No evidence to be received after May 10, 1878, except.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth sections of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, and for other purposes," approved March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-one, and the act entitled "An act to authorize the Commissioners of Claims to appoint special commissioners to take testimony, and for other purposes," approved May eleventh, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, be and the same are hereby, extended and continued in force for two years from the tenth day of March, eighteen hundred and seventy-seven: *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to extend the time for filing claims before said commission, or to enlarge its jurisdiction, or to authorize the filing of new claims.

SEC. 2. That the Commissioners of Claims shall not receive any evidence on behalf of any claimant or claimants, for the allowance of any claim or claims unless such evidence shall have been taken, presented and filed by the tenth day of March, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, except, in rebuttal of evidence introduced on behalf of the Government, and all claims wherein the evidence of the claimant or claimants, is not filed within the time herein limited, shall be deemed to be barred forever thereafter.

Approved, March 3, 1877.

March 3, 1877.

**CHAP. 125.**—An act to secure the rights of settlers upon certain railroad-lands, and to repeal the first five sections of an act entitled "An act granting lands to the State of Kansas to aid in the construction of the Kansas and Neosho Valley Railroad and its extension to Red River," approved July twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six.

1866, ch. 241,  
14 Stat., 236,  
Repealed in part.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That sections one, two, three, four, and five of the act entitled "An act granting lands to the State of Kansas to aid in the construction of the Kansas and Neosho Valley Railroad and its extension to Red River," approved July twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.