

June 1, 1874.

CHAP. 200.—An act for the benefit of occupying claimants.

Dispossessed occupants of land to have remedies in certain cases.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That when an occupant of land having color of title, in good faith has made valuable improvements thereon, and is, in the proper action, found not to be the rightful owner thereof, such occupant shall be entitled in the Federal courts to all the rights and remedies, and, upon instituting the proper proceedings, such relief as may be given or secured to him by the statutes of the State or Territory where the land lies, although the title of the plaintiff in the action may have been granted by the United States after said improvements were so made.

Approved, June 1, 1874.

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CHAP. 201.—An act to facilitate the execution of, and to protect certain public works of improvement at the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Secretary of War to assume control of channel at mouth of Mississippi River.

*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 Secretary of War is directed to assume full control over the particular channel at the mouth of the Mississippi River in course of excavation or improvement by the Government of the United States, so far as may be necessary to the carrying on and protection of such excavation and improvement, and until the same be completed, and he may establish such regulations respecting the use of, or passage through, such channel as he shall deem needful to fully protect the channel and to facilitate the excavation, improvement and use thereof. Such regulations shall be promulgated by publication thereof for ten days consecutively in two daily papers published in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the same may in like manner be changed from time to time; and any person interfering with, or obstructing, or attempting to obstruct the said improvements, and any person who shall willfully or negligently strand or sink any boat or craft in said channel, or who shall willfully, or negligently obstruct said channel, or cause any impairment injury, filling up, or shoaling therein, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding, five hundred dollars, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Approved, June 1, 1874.

June 3, 1874.

CHAP. 203.—An act to amend an act entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to reduce duties on imports and to reduce internal taxes, and for other purposes,'" approved March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-three.

Amendment of 1873, ch. 232, § 3, vol. xvii, p. 559.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section third of an act entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to reduce duties on imports, and to reduce internal taxes, and for other purposes,'" approved March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, be amended so as to read as follows:

Merchandise in port July 31, 1872, entitled to certain benefits.

"SEC. 3. That foreign merchandise which arrived at a port of the United States on or before the thirty-first day of July, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, and upon which duties were not paid prior to August first, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, though the same were not entered or transferred to a public store or bonded warehouse, shall be entitled to the benefits provided for in the eighth section of the act entitled 'An act to reduce duties on imports, and to reduce internal taxes, and for other purposes,' approved June sixth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, the same as such merchandise would have been entitled to had it actually been in public store or bonded warehouse on or

1872, ch. 315, § 8, vol. xvii, pp. 237, 238.