

June 22, 1874.

CHAP. 398.—An act to admit free of duty merchandise sunk for two years and afterward recovered.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever any ship or vessel, laden with merchandise in whole or in part subject to duty, shall have been sunk in any river, harbor, bay, or waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and within its limits, and shall have remained so sunk for the period of not less than two years, and shall be abandoned by the owners thereof, any person or persons, who may raise any portion of the cargo of such ship or vessel, shall be permitted to bring the merchandise so recovered into the port nearest to the place where such ship or vessel was so sunk free from the payment of any duty thereupon, and without being obliged to enter the same at the custom house, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

Approved, June 22, 1874.

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CHAP. 399.—An act for the relief of savings institutions having no capital stock, and doing business solely for the benefit of depositors.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no farther collection of internal revenue taxes shall be made on the earnings of savings banks or institutions for savings, having no capital stock and doing no other business than receiving deposits to be loaned or invested for the sole benefit of the parties making such deposits, without profit or compensation to the association or company, whether the earnings of the same have been or may hereafter be divided annually, semi-annually or at other periods.

Approved, June 22, 1874.

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CHAP. 400.—An act for the relief of settlers on railroad lands.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in the adjustment of all railroad land grants, whether made directly to any railroad company or to any State for railroad purposes, if any of the lands granted be found in the possession of an actual settler whose entry or filing has been allowed under the pre-emption or homestead laws of the United States subsequent to the time at which, by the decision of the land-office, the right of said road was declared to have attached to such lands, the grantees, upon a proper relinquishment of the lands so entered or filed for, shall be entitled to select an equal quantity of other lands in lieu thereof from any of the public lands not mineral and within the limits of the grant not otherwise appropriated at the date of selection, to which they shall receive title the same as though originally granted. And any such entries or filings thus relieved from conflict may be perfected into complete title as if such lands had not been granted: *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall in any manner be so construed as to enlarge or extend any grant to any such railroad or to extend to lands reserved in any land grant made for railroad purposes: *And provided further,* That this act shall not be construed so as in any manner to confirm or legalize any decision or ruling of the Interior Department under which lands have been certified to any railroad company when such lands have been entered by a pre-emption or homestead settler after the location of the line of the road and prior to the notice to the local land-office of the withdrawal of such lands from market.

Approved, June 22, 1874