

Harbor of Leonardtown, Britton Bay, Potomac River, Maryland, with a view to remove obstructions.

Harbor of Norfolk, Virginia.

Board of engineers to survey mouth of Mississippi River.

SEC. 3. That a board of engineers, to be composed of three from the Army, one from the Coast Survey, and three from civil life, be appointed by the President; which said board shall make a survey of the mouth of the Mississippi River, with a view to determine the best method of obtaining and maintaining a depth of water sufficient for the purposes of commerce, either by a canal from said river to the waters of the Gulf, or by deepening one or more of the natural outlets of said river; and said board shall make a full and detailed estimate and statement of the cost of each of said plans, and shall report the same, together with their opinion thereon, showing which of all said plans they deem preferable, giving their reasons therefor, to the Secretary of War, to be presented at the commencement of the second session of the Forty-third Congress; and that the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to defray the cost of said survey.

Duties of board.

Report to Secretary of War for presentation to Congress.

Approved, June 23, 1874.

June 23, 1874.

CHAP. 458.—An act reorganizing the several staff corps of the Army.

Reorganization of Inspector General's Department of the Army.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Inspector General's Department shall consist of one colonel, two lieutenant-colonels, and two majors, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of officers of said grades; and the Secretary of War may, in addition, detail officers of the line, not to exceed four, to act as assistant inspector-general: *Provided,* That officers of the line detailed as acting inspectors-general shall have all the allowances of cavalry officers of their respective grades; and no new appointment shall be made in the Inspector-General's Department until the number of inspectors-general is reduced to five.

Proviso.

No new appointments until, &c.

Bureau of Military Justice.

SEC. 2/ That the Bureau of Military Justice shall hereafter consist of one Judge-Advocate-General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a brigadier general; and the said Judge-Advocate-General shall receive, revise, and have recorded the proceedings of all courts-martial, courts of inquiry and military commissions, and shall perform such other duties as have been heretofore performed by the Judge-Advocate-General of the Army. (In the corps of judge-advocates no appointment shall be made as vacancies occur until the number shall be reduced to four, which shall thereafter be the permanent number of the officers of that corps.

Revision, &c., of proceedings of courts-martial, &c.

No new appointments until, &c.

Assistant commissaries-general of subsistence.

Number of commissaries with rank of captain reduced.

No new appointments until, &c.

Medical Department.

Assistant medical purveyors to give bonds.

SEC. 3. That hereafter there shall be three assistant commissaries-general of subsistence, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of lieutenant-colonel, instead of the two now allowed by law of said grade in the Subsistence Department; that the number of commissaries of subsistence with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a captain of cavalry, is hereby reduced to twelve, and no appointment to fill a vacancy in said grade shall be made until the number thereof shall be reduced to twelve, and the number thereafter shall remain fixed at twelve.

SEC. 4. That the Medical Department of the Army shall hereafter consist of one Surgeon-General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a brigadier general; one assistant surgeon-general, and one chief medical purveyor, each with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a colonel; and two assistant medical purveyors, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of lieutenant-colonels, who shall give the same bonds which are or may be required of assistant paymasters-general of like grade, and shall, when not acting as purveyors, be assignable to duty as surgeons by the President; fifty surgeons, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of majors; one hundred and fifty assistant surgeons, with the rank, pay,

and emoluments of lieutenants of cavalry for the first five years' service, and with the rank, pay, and emoluments of captains of cavalry after five years' service; and four medical store-keepers, with the same compensation as is now provided by law; and all the original vacancies in the grade of assistant surgeon shall be filled by selection by competitive examination; and the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to appoint, from the enlisted men of the Army, or cause to be enlisted, as many hospital-stewards as the service may require, to be permanently attached to the Medical Department, under such regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe. And the number of contract-surgeons shall be limited to seventy-five on or before the first day of January in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-five; and thereafter no more than that number shall be employed.

Original vacancies in grade of assistant surgeon, how to be filled.
Enlistment of hospital stewards.

Contract-surgeons limited.
Post, 294.

SEC. 5. That the Ordnance Department shall consist of one Chief of Ordnance, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a brigadier-general; three colonels, four lieutenant-colonels, ten majors, twenty captains, sixteen first lieutenants; and all vacancies which may hereafter exist in the grade of first lieutenant in said Department shall be filled by transfer from the line of the Army: *Provided*, That no appointment or promotion in said Department shall hereafter be made until the officer or person so appointed or promoted shall have passed a satisfactory examination before a board of ordnance-officers senior to himself.

Ordnance Department.

Vacancies in grade of first lieutenant, how to be filled.

Examinations for appointment or promotion.

SEC. 6. That no officer now in service shall be reduced in rank or mustered out by reason of any provision of law herein made reducing the number of officers in any department or corps of the staff.

Officers not to be hereby reduced in rank or mustered out.

SEC. 7. That as vacancies shall occur in any of the grades of the Ordnance and Medical Departments, no appointments shall be made to fill the same until the numbers in such grade shall be reduced to the numbers which are fixed for permanent appointments by the provisions of this act; and thereafter the number of permanent officers in said grades shall continue to conform to said reduced numbers, and all other grades in said Ordnance and Medical Departments than those authorized by the provisions of this act shall cease to exist as soon as the same shall become vacant by death, resignation or otherwise; and no appointment or promotion shall hereafter be made to fill any vacancy which may occur therein.

No appointments to be made to fill vacancies in Ordnance and Medical Departments until, &c.

Certain grades in Ordnance and Medical Departments to cease to exist when.

SEC. 8. That so much of section six of an act entitled "An act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy, and for other purposes," approved March third, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, as applies to the Ordnance, Subsistence and Medical Departments of the Army be, and the same is hereby, repealed: *Provided*, That this section repealing said section shall not apply to any of the grades of the Medical or Ordnance Departments which are omitted or abolished by the provisions of this act.

Repeal of part of section 6, act of 1869, ch. 124, vol. xv, p. 318.

Proviso.

Approved, June 23, 1874.

CHAP. 459.—An act for the creation of a court for the adjudication and disposition of certain moneys received into the Treasury under an award made by the tribunal of arbitration constituted by virtue of the first article of the treaty concluded at Washington the eighth of May, anno Domini eighteen hundred and seventy-one, between the United States of America and the Queen of Great Britain.

June 23, 1874.

Vol. xvii, p. 863.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized to nominate and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint five suitable persons, who shall constitute a court, to be known as the "Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims." Each of the judges and other officers of said court shall take the oath of office prescribed by law to be taken by all officers of the United States. The President shall designate, by appointment, one of the said judges to be presiding judge of the court; and

Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims established.

Oath of office.

Presiding judge to be designated by President.