

Section fifteen hundred and six is hereby amended so as to read as follows :

Rank of officers. How to be changed. R. S. 1506, p. 258, Amended.

“SEC. 1506. Any officer of the Navy may, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, be advanced, not exceeding thirty numbers in rank, for eminent and conspicuous conduct in battle or extraordinary heroism; and the rank of officers shall not be changed except in accordance with the provisions of existing law, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.”

Approved, June 17, 1878.

June 17, 1878.

CHAP. 261.—An act to increase the pension of certain pensioned soldiers and sailors who have lost both their hands or both their feet or the sight of both eyes in the service of the country.

Preamble.

1879, ch. 200,
Post, 484.

Whereas, it is apparent that the present pension paid to soldiers and sailors who have lost both their hands or both their feet in the service of the country is greatly inadequate to the support of such as have families: Therefore,

Pension for loss of both hands, feet, or eyes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That on and after the passage of this act, all soldiers and sailors who have lost either both their hands or both their feet or the sight of both eyes in the service of the United States, shall receive, in lieu of all pensions now paid them by the Government of the United States, and there shall be paid to them, in the same manner as pensions are now paid to such persons, the sum of seventy two dollars per month.

Approved, June 17, 1878.

June 18, 1878.

CHAP. 262.—An act to provide for the distribution of the awards made under the convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Mexico concluded on the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight.

Distribution of moneys received from Mexico under treaties.

15 Stat., 679.
19 Stat., 642.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of State be, and he is hereby, authorized and required to receive any and all moneys which may be paid by the Mexican Republic under and in pursuance of the conventions between the United States and the Mexican Republic for the adjustment of claims, concluded July fourth, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, and April twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and seventy-six; and whenever, and as often as, any installments shall have been paid by the Mexican Republic on account of said awards, to distribute the moneys so received in ratable proportions among the corporations, companies, or private individuals respectively in whose favor awards have been made by said commissioners, or by the umpires, or to their legal representatives or assigns, except as in this act otherwise limited or provided, according to the proportion which their respective awards shall bear to the whole amount of such moneys then held by him, and to pay the same, without other charge or deduction than is hereinafter provided, to the parties respectively entitled thereto. And in making such distribution and payment, due regard shall be had to the value at the time of such distribution of the respective currencies in which the said awards are made payable; and the proportionate amount of any award of which by its terms the United States is entitled to retain a part shall be deducted from the payment to be made on such award, and shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States as a part of the unappropriated money in the Treasury.

Appropriation to pay awards against United States, deducted, etc.

SEC. 2. That out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sufficient sum is hereby appropriated to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to pay to the Secretary of State of the United States, in gold or its equivalent, the equivalent of fifty thousand five hundred and twenty-eight dollars and fifty-seven cents in Mexican gold dollars, and