

persons, estates, firms or corporations who would be the true and lawful owners of said lands under the laws of Alabama, including the laws of prescription, in the absence of said interest, title, and estate of the said United States.

Approved, June 4, 1912.

CHAP. 152.—An Act To amend an Act to authorize a bridge at or near Council Bluffs, Iowa, approved February first, nineteen hundred and eight, as amended.

June 5, 1912.
[H. R. 21290.]

[Public, No. 178.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act to authorize the Central Railroad and Bridge Company to construct a bridge across the Missouri River at or near Council Bluffs, Iowa, approved February first, nineteen hundred and eight, and amended February twenty-seventh, nineteen hundred and nine, and June twenty-fifth, nineteen hundred and ten, is hereby amended so as to give to the Central Bridge Company, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, all the authority and rights granted under said Act, if the actual construction of the bridge authorized by said Act is commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date of the passage of this Act.

Missouri River.
Time extended for bridging, by Central Railroad and Bridge Company, Council Bluffs, Iowa.
Vol. 35, pp. 3, 660;
Vol. 36, p. 883.

Amendment.

SEC. 2. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is expressly reserved.

Approved, June 5, 1912.

CHAP. 153.—An Act To amend section twenty-two hundred and ninety-one and section twenty-two hundred and ninety-seven of the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to homesteads.

June 6, 1912.
[S. 3367.]

[Public, No. 179.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section twenty-two hundred and ninety-one and section twenty-two hundred and ninety-seven of the Revised Statutes of the United States be amended to read as follows:

Public lands.
Homestead entries.
Post, p. 925.

“SEC. 2291. No certificate, however, shall be given or patent issued therefor until the expiration of three years from the date of such entry; and if at the expiration of such time, or at any time within two years thereafter, the person making such entry, or if he be dead his widow, or in case of her death his heirs or devisee, or in case of a widow making such entry her heirs or devisee, in case of her death, proves by himself and by two credible witnesses that he, she, or they have a habitable house upon the land and have actually resided upon and cultivated the same for the term of three years succeeding the time of filing the affidavit, and makes affidavit that no part of such land has been alienated, except as provided in section twenty-two hundred and eighty-eight, and that he, she, or they will bear true allegiance to the Government of the United States, then in such case he, she, or they, if at that time citizens of the United States, shall be entitled to a patent, as in other cases provided by law: *Provided,* That upon filing in the local land office notice of the beginning of such absence, the entryman shall be entitled to a continuous leave of absence from the land for a period not exceeding five months in each year after establishing residence, and upon the termination of such absence the entryman shall file a notice of such termination in the local land office, but in case of commutation the fourteen months' actual residence as now required by law must be shown, and the person commuting must be at the time a citizen of the United States: *Provided,* That when the person making entry dies before the offer of final proof those succeeding to the entry must show that the entryman had complied with the law in all respects to the date of his death and that

Patent to issue on proof of three years' residence, etc.
R. S., sec. 2291, p. 420, amended.

Transfers for public purposes.
R. S., sec. 2288, p. 419.

Provisos.
Leaves of absence allowed.

Commutation.

Proof required if entryman dies.