

executed in their behalf by a committee chosen by them under the direction and approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior. Official letters, papers, documents, and records, or certified copies thereof, may be used in evidence, and the departments of the Government shall give access to the attorney or attorneys of said Indian nation to such treaties, papers, correspondence, or records as may be needed by the attorney or attorneys of said Indian nation.

Evidence admitted.

SEC. 3. In said suit the court shall also hear, examine, consider, and adjudicate any claims which the United States may have against said Indian nation, but any payment including gratuities which may have been made by the United States upon any claim against the United States shall not operate as an estoppel, but may be pleaded as an offset in such suit.

Counter claims admitted.

SEC. 4. That from the decision of the Court of Claims in any suit prosecuted under the authority of this Act, an appeal may be taken by either party as in other cases to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Appeal to Supreme Court.

SEC. 5. That upon the final determination of any suit instituted under this Act, the Court of Claims shall decree such amount or amounts as it may find reasonable to be paid the attorney or attorneys so employed by said Indian nation for the services and expenses of said attorneys rendered or incurred prior or subsequent to the date of approval of this Act: *Provided*, That in no case shall the aggregate amounts decreed by said Court of Claims for fees be in excess of \$5,000, or in excess of a sum equal to 10 per centum of the amount of recovery against the United States.

Attorneys' fees by decree of court.

Proviso. Limitation.

SEC. 6. The Court of Claims shall have full authority by proper orders and process to bring in and make parties to such suit any or all persons deemed by it necessary or proper to the final determination of the matters in controversy.

Issue of orders and process.

SEC. 7. A copy of the petition shall, in such case, be served upon the Attorney General of the United States, and he, or some attorney from the Department of Justice to be designated by him, is hereby directed to appear and defend the interest of the United States in such case.

Appearance of Attorney General directed.

Approved, June 7, 1924.

CHAP. 336.—An Act To authorize the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railway Company and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company to construct a bridge across the White River, near the city of De Valls Bluff, Arkansas.

June 7, 1924.

[S. 3116.]

[Public, No. 258.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railway Company, a corporation created and existing by virtue of the laws of the United States, its successors and assigns, and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company, a consolidated corporation organized under the laws of the States of Illinois and Iowa, its successors and assigns, or either one of said railroad companies, be, and they are hereby, authorized to construct or reconstruct, maintain, and operate a railroad bridge and approaches thereto across the White River at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, near De Valls Bluff, Arkansas, in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters," approved March 23, 1906.

White River. Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railway Company and Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company may bridge, De Valls Bluff, Ark.

Construction. Vol. 34, p. 84.

Amendment.

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

Approved, June 7, 1924.