

United States, over said railroads during the existence of this rebellion, as in view of the public exigency may be just and reasonable, and liquidate the same: *Provided, however,* That the sums paid to said companies shall be as near as may be the cost of transporting such property and troops, and not exceeding the prices fixed by the War Department on the twelfth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, for transportation by railroads, which adjustment and liquidation shall preclude any further claim on behalf of such companies against the Government for compensation or damages previously accrued, or for the military occupation of the said roads by the United States Government up to the time of the passage of this act: *And provided further,* That the Secretary of War may, in his discretion, withhold from time to time such portion of the moneys which may be due to either of said railroad companies, to indemnify the Government against any failure of such company to promptly transport such troops and supplies; but nothing herein shall be so construed as to prevent the Secretary of War from taking possession of said railroads and their appurtenances, and applying the same to the exclusive use of the Government whenever, in his judgment, the public interests may require it, without, in such case, compensation to said companies.

Pay not to exceed, &c.

Part may be withheld.

Railroads may be taken possession of.

APPROVED, March 6, 1862.

[No. 16.] *A Resolution declaratory of the Intent and Meaning of a certain Act therein named.*

March 8, 1862.

Whereas doubts have arisen as to the true intent and meaning of act numbered eighteen, entitled "An act to indemnify the States for expenses incurred by them in defence of the United States," approved July twenty-seven, eighteen hundred and sixty-one:

1861, ch. 21.
Ante, p. 276.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the said act shall be construed to apply to expenses incurred as well after as before the date of the approval thereof.

Indemnity to States for war expenses.

APPROVED, March 8, 1862.

[No. 18.] *A Resolution providing for the Payment of the Awards of the Commission to investigate the military Claims in the Department of the West.*

March 11, 1862.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all sums allowed to be due from the United States to individuals, companies, or corporations, by the Commission heretofore appointed by the Secretary of War, (for the investigation of military claims against the Department of the West), composed of David Davis, Joseph Holt, and Hugh Campbell, now sitting at St. Louis, Missouri, shall be deemed to be due and payable, and shall be paid by the disbursing officers, either in St. Louis or Washington, in each case, upon the presentation of the voucher with the Commissioners' certificate thereon, in any form, plainly indicating the allowance of the claim and to what amount. This resolution shall apply only to claims and contracts for service, labor, or materials, and for subsistence, clothing, transportation, arms, supplies, and the purchase, hire, and construction of vessels.

Payment of awards of commissioners on military claims in the Department of the West.

APPROVED, March 11, 1862.

[No. 19.] *A Resolution to amend an Act entitled "An Act to carry into Effect Conventions between the United States and the Republics of New Grenada and Costa Rica."*

March 15, 1862.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the act entitled "An act to carry into effect conventions between the United States and the Republics of New Grenada and Costa Rica," approved the twentieth day

Unwilling witness may be compelled to testify.
1861, ch. 45, § 6, 13.
Ante, p. 145.