

register and receiver of the proper land-office to receive all applications in cases presented under this act, pursuant to such instructions as may be prescribed by the commissioner of the general land-office, and to adjudge all such cases as preliminary to a final decision in due course of law.

APPROVED, July 2, 1864.

CHAP. CCXIX. — *An Act to authorize assimilated Rank to be given to the Warrant Officers of the United States Navy, and for other Purposes.* July 2, 1864.

*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 is hereby authorized, if, in his judgment, it shall be conducive to the interest of the service, to give assimilated rank to the warrant officers of the navy, viz: boatswains, gunners, carpenters, and sail-makers, as follows: After five years of service to rank with ensigns; and after ten years service to rank with masters.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That, from and after the passage of this act, the officers named in the preceding section shall be known as "warrant officers in the navy," and shall be so entered upon the Naval Register.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That in all cases where it has been, or may be, found necessary during the present war to detain in confinement persons found on board of captured vessels, the expenses of the detention of such persons, when not chargeable to the proceeds of prize or other fund, shall be paid out of the appropriation for defraying the expenses of suits in which the United States are concerned, and that the expenses of prisoners sentenced by naval court-martial to confinement in a penitentiary shall be defrayed from the same fund.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the following addition be made to the clerical force now authorized by law in the Navy Department: — Bureau of provisions and clothing, two clerks of the third class and two of the first class.

Bureau of ordnance, one clerk of the third class.

Bureau of equipment and recruiting, one clerk of the second class and one clerk of the first class.

APPROVED, July 2, 1864.

CHAP. CCXX. — *An Act for increased Facilities of Telegraph Communication between the Atlantic and Pacific States and the Territory of Idaho.* July 2, 1864.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the United States Telegraph Company, and their associates, are hereby authorized to erect a line or lines of magnetic telegraph between the Missouri River and the city of San Francisco, in the State of California, on such route as they may select, to connect with the lines of the said United States Telegraph Company, now constructed, and being constructed through the states of the Union. The said company shall have the use of such unoccupied land of the United States as may be necessary for the right of way, and materials, and for the establishing of stations along said line for repairs, not exceeding at any station one quarter section of land; and such stations not to exceed one in fifteen miles on the average of the whole line, unless said lands shall be required by the government of the United States for railroad or other purposes: *And provided,* That no right to preempt any of said lands under the laws of the United States shall enure to said company or their agents, or any other person or persons whatsoever.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the said United States Telegraph Company, under the direction of the President of the United States,

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