July 25, 1866.

CHAP. CCXL.—*An Act legalizing Marriages and for other Purposes in the District of Columbia.*

Certain colored persons in the District of Columbia, living together as man and wife, &c. to be deemed husband and wife.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all colored persons in the District of Columbia, who, previous to their actual emancipation, had undertaken and agreed to occupy the relation to each other of husband and wife, and are cohabiting together as such or in any way recognizing the relation as still existing at the time of the passage of this act, whether the rites of marriage have been celebrated between them or not, shall be deemed husband and wife, and be entitled to all the rights and privileges, and subject to the duties and obligations of that relation in like manner as if they had been duly married according to law, and all their children shall be deemed legitimate, whether born before or after the passage of this act. And when the parties have ceased to cohabit before the passage of this act, in consequence of the death of the woman, or from any other cause, all the children of the woman rec[o]gnized by the man to be his shall be deemed legitimate.

Their children legitimate.

Children of those who have ceased to cohabit.

APPROVED, July 25, 1866.

July 25, 1866.

CHAP. CCXLI.—*An Act granting Lands to the State of Kansas to aid in the Construction of the Kansas and Neosho Valley Railroad and its Extension to Red River.*

Public lands granted to Kansas, to aid the construction of the Kansas and Neosho Valley Railroad Company.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of aiding the Kansas and Neosho Valley Railroad Company, the same being a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Kansas, to construct and operate a railroad from the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad, eastern division, at the line between Kansas and Missouri, at or near the mouth of the Kansas River, on the south side thereof, southwardly, through the eastern tier of counties in Kansas, with a view of its extension, so as to effect a junction at Red River with a railroad now being constructed from Galveston to Red River at or near Preston, in Texas, there is hereby granted to the State of Kansas, for the use and benefit of said railroad company, every alternate section of land or parts thereof, designated by odd numbers, to the extent of ten sections per mile on each side of said road, to be selected within twenty miles *of from* [of] the line of said road; but in case it shall appear that the United States have, when the line of said road is definitely located, sold any section, or any part thereof, granted as aforesaid, or that the right of pre-emption or homestead settlement has attached to the same, or that the same has been reserved by the United States for any purpose whatever, then it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to cause to be selected for the purposes aforesaid, from the public lands of the United States nearest to the sections above specified, so much land as shall be equal to the amount of such lands as the United States have sold, reserved, or otherwise appropriated, or to which the right of homestead settlement or pre-emption has attached as aforesaid, which lands, thus indicated by the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall be reserved and held for the State of Kansas for the use of said company by the said Secretary for the purpose of the construction and operation of said railroad, as provided by this act: *Provided*, That any and all lands heretofore reserved to the United States by any act of Congress, or in any other manner by competent authority, for the purpose of aiding in any object of internal improvement or other purpose whatever, be, and the same are hereby, reserved and excepted from the operation of this act, except so far as it may be found necessary to locate the route of said road through such reserved lands, in which case the right of way two hundred feet in width is hereby granted, subject to the approval of the President of the United States: *And provided, further*, That none of the lands hereby granted shall be selected beyond twenty miles from the said road.

Extent of grant, and selection of lands.

If any of the land granted has been before sold, or reserved, &c., what may be taken in lieu thereof.

Lands before reserved excepted from operation of this act.

Right of way through such lands.

No land to be selected beyond twenty miles.

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