Ryan-Hitchcock mode of marine fortifications to be inquired into, and report made to Congress.

the admiral of the navy, or in the absence of the admiral, then the vice-admiral, be authorized and directed to inquire into the utility and practicability of the Ryan-Hitchcock mode of marine fortifications, and that they report to Congress at the next session thereof.

APPROVED, February 19, 1869.

Feb. 27, 1869.

[No. 14.] *A Resolution proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.*

Fifteenth amendment to the Constitution.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two thirds of both houses concurring,) That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three fourths of said legislatures, shall be valid as part of the Constitution, namely:

ARTICLE XV.

SECTION 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

SEC. 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
B. F. WADE,
President of the Senate pro tempore.

Attest:
EDWD. MCPHERSON,
Clerk of House of Representatives.
GEO. C. GORHAM,
Sec'y of Senate U. S.

Received at Department of State February 27, 1869.

March 1, 1869.
1864, ch. 217, § 10. Vol. xiii. p. 370.

[No. 15.] *Joint Resolution gra[n]ting the Consent of Congress provided for in section ten of the Act incorporating the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-four.*

Consent of Congress given to the Northern Pacific R. R. Co. to issue bonds, &c.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the consent of the Congress of the United States is hereby given to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to issue its bonds, and to secure the same by mortgage upon its railroad and its telegraph line, for the purpose of raising funds with which to construct said railroad and telegraph line between Lake Superior and Puget Sound, and also upon its branch to a point at or near Portland, Oregon; and the term "Puget Sound," as used here and in the act incorporating said company, is hereby construed to mean all the waters connected with the straits of Juan de Fuca within the territory of the United States.

APPROVED, March 1, 1869.

March 1, 1869.

[No. 16.] *Joint Resolution in Relation to the Meeting of the House of Representatives at the first Session of the Forty-first Congress.*

Time of first regular meeting of the House of Representatives of the 41st Congress.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the time for the first regular meeting of the House of Representatives of the Forty-first Congress be, and is hereby, postponed from twelve o'clock meridian, on the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, to the hour of three o'clock in the afternoon of the said day.

APPROVED, March 1, 1869.

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