

CHAP. CXXV. — *An Act to establish certain Post-Roads in the State of Alabama, and for other Purposes.* June 8, 1870.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the consent of Congress be, and the same is hereby, given to the erection of a drawbridge over the Alabama river, near the city of Selma, by the Western Railroad Company of the State of Alabama, in accordance with an act of the legislature of said State incorporating said company.

Drawbridge may be erected over the Alabama river, near Selma;

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the consent of Congress be, and the same is hereby, given to the erection of a drawbridge over the said river, above the city of Montgomery, by the South and North Alabama Railroad Company, in accordance with the act of the legislature incorporating said company: *Provided,* That said drawbridges shall be respectively constructed so as to cross the streams at right angles with the current, and the approaches to such draws shall be protected by piers or other means that boats may enter the draws with safety in such manner otherwise as not materially or substantially to obstruct the free navigation of said river.

and above the city of Montgomery.

Proviso.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That Congress reserves the right to withdraw the assent hereby given, as to either or both of said companies, in case the free navigation of the said river shall be at any time materially or substantially obstructed by either or both of said bridges.

Assent of Congress may be withdrawn, if, &c.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That said bridges, when completed in the manner specified in said acts of incorporation, shall be deemed and taken to be legal structures, and shall, with the railroads of which they are parts, be post-roads for the transmission of the mails of the United States.

Bridges to be post-roads.

APPROVED, June 8, 1870.

CHAP. CXXVI. — *An Act in Relation to the Hot Springs Reservation in Arkansas.* June 11, 1870.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That any person claiming title, either legal or equitable, to the whole or any part of the four sections of land constituting what is known as the Hot Springs reservation in Hot Springs county, in the State of Arkansas, may institute against the United States in the court of claims, and prosecute to final decision, any suit that may be necessary to settle the same: *Provided,* That no such suits shall be brought at any time after the expiration of ninety days from the passage of this act, and all claims to any part of said reservation upon which suit shall not be brought under the provisions of this act within that time shall be forever barred.

Persons claiming title to the Hot Springs reservation in Arkansas may bring suit in the court of claims to settle the same; suits to be brought within ninety days.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all such suits shall be by petition in the nature of a bill in equity, and shall be conducted and determined in all respects, except as herein otherwise provided, according to the rules and principles of equity practice and jurisprudence in the other courts of the United States; and for the purposes of this act the court of claims is hereby invested with the jurisdiction and powers exercised by courts of equity so far as may be necessary to give full relief in any suit which may be instituted under the provisions of this act.

Form of suits and how conducted.

Jurisdiction of court of claims.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That notice of every suit authorized by this act shall be executed by the delivery of a true copy thereof with a copy of the petition to the Attorney-General, whose duty it shall be, for and in behalf of the United States, to demur to or answer the petition therein, within thirty days after the service of such process upon him, unless the court shall for good cause shown grant further time for filing the same.

Notice of suit.

Attorney-General to answer, &c. within thirty days.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That if two or more parties claiming

Proceedings