or cribs in front of their mill property on the banks of said river, for the protection of their mills and rafts against damage by floods and ice: Provided however, That the piers or cribs so constructed shall not interfere with or obstruct the navigation of said river: Provided further, That in case by reason of the shifting of the channel of the said river, or from any other cause, the piers or cribs, the construction of which are authorized by this act shall be found to obstruct the navigation of said river at any time, the government expressly reserves the right to remove, or direct the removal of any such piers or cribs at the cost and expense of the owners thereof.

Approved, March 3, 1873.

CHAP. CCLXXIX. — An Act to provide for the Sale of the Lands of the United States containing Coal.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person above the age of twenty-one years, who is a citizen of the United States, or who has declared his intention to become such, or any association of persons severally qualified as above, shall, upon application to the register of the proper land-office, have the right to enter, by legal subdivisions, any quantity of vacant coal lands of the United States not otherwise appropriated or reserved by competent authority, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres to such individual person, or three hundred and twenty acres to such association, upon payment of the receiver of not less than ten dollars per acre for such lands, where the same shall be situated more than fifteen miles from any completed railroad, and not less than twenty dollars per acre for such lands as shall be within fifteen miles of such road.

Section 2. That any person or association of persons severally qualified as above, who have opened and improved, or shall hereafter open and improve, any coal mine or mines upon the public lands, and shall be in actual possession of the same, shall be entitled to a preference right of entry, under the foregoing provisions, of the mines so opened and improved: Provided, That when any association of not less than four persons, severally qualified as in section one of this act, shall have expended not less than five thousand dollars in working and improving any such mine or mines, such association may enter not exceeding six hundred and forty acres, including such mining improvements.

Section 3. That all claims under section two of this act must be presented to the register of the proper land-district within sixty days after the date of actual possession and the commencement of improvements on the land, by the filing of a declaratory statement therefor: Provided, That when the township plat is not on file at the date of such improvement, filing must be made within sixty days from the receipt of such plat at the district office; And provided further, That where the improvements shall have been made prior to the expiration of three months from the passage of this act, sixty days from the expiration of said three months shall be allowed for the filing of a declaratory statement, and no sale under the provisions of this act shall be allowed until the expiration of six months from the date hereof.

Section 4. That this act shall be held to authorize only one entry by the same person or association of persons under its provisions; and no association of persons, any member of which shall have taken the benefit of this act either as an individual or as a member of any other association shall enter or hold any other lands under the provisions of this act; and no member of any association which shall have taken the benefit of this act shall enter or hold any other lands under its provisions; and all persons claiming under section two hereof, shall be required to prove their respective rights and pay for the lands filed upon within one year from the time.
within a year from, &c.

In case of conflicting claims, priority of possession, &c., to determine. Where improvements are already made.

Existing rights not impaired.

March 3, 1873.

Howard F. Moffat may be appointed master upon the retired list of the navy.

CCLXXXI. — An Act to extend the Time for filing Claims for additional Bounty under the Act of July twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the time for filing claims for additional bounty, under the act of July twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and which expired by limitation January thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, be, and the same is hereby, revived and extended until the thirtieth day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-four; and that all claims for such bounties filed in the proper department after the thirtieth day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, and before the passage of this act, shall be deemed to have been filed in due time, and shall be considered and decided without filing.

Approved, March 3, 1873.

March 3, 1873.

Vol. ii. p. 400.

Proper quota of arms and military equipments to be distributed to certain States.

No distinction to be made between companies &c., on account of race, color, &c.