AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien" approved June sixth, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, accept that in the bridge herein authorized one draw only shall be required, which shall not be less than four hundred feet in width in the clear: *And provided further*, That any bridge built under the provisions of this act shall be at right-angles to the current of the river.

Proviso.

Not to obstruct navigation.

SEC. 3. That no bridge shall be erected or maintained under the authority of this act which shall at any time substantially or materially obstruct the free navigation of said river; and no bridge shall be commenced or built under this act until the location thereof and the plans and specifications for its construction shall have been submitted to, and approved by, the Secretary of War; and any change in the plan of such construction or any alteration in the bridge after its construction shall be subject to the like approval; and whenever said bridge shall, in the opinion of the Secretary of War, substantially obstruct the free navigation of said river, he is hereby authorized to cause such change or alteration of said bridge to be made as will effectually obviate such obstruction; and all such alterations shall be made, and all such obstructions be removed, at the expense of the owner or owners of said bridge; and in case of any litigation arising from any obstruction or alleged obstruction to the free navigation of the Missouri River at or near the crossing of said bridge caused or alleged to be caused thereby, the cause shall be commenced and tried in the district courts of either judicial district of Iowa or Nebraska in which the said bridge or any portion of such obstruction touches.

Approval of plans.

Alterations.

Litigation for obstruction, where tried.

Declared lawful structure and post-route.

Charges for transportation for United States.

SEC. 4. That any bridge built under this act and according to its limitations shall be a lawful structure, and shall be recognized and known as a post-route, upon which also no higher charge shall be made for the transportation over the same of the mails, the troops, and munitions of war of the United States than the rate per mile paid for their transportation over the railroads or public highways leading to such bridge. Such lights shall be kept upon said bridge as the Light-House Board shall direct, and said bridge shall moreover be provided with all proper safeguards for the security of person and property.

Lights and safeguards.

Right to amend.

SEC. 5. That Congress may at any time alter, amend, or repeal this act.

Approved, August 15, 1876.

Aug. 15, 1876.

CHAP. 304.—An act to provide for the appointment of commissioners for taking affidavits, &c., for the courts of the United States.

Notaries public may take testimony, etc.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notaries public of the several States, Territories, and the District of Columbia be, and they are hereby, authorized to take depositions, and do all other acts in relation to taking testimony to be used in the courts of the United States, take acknowledgments and affidavits, in the same manner and with the same effect as commissioners of the United States circuit court may now lawfully take or do.

Approved, August 15, 1876.

Aug. 15, 1876.

CHAP. 305.—An act relieving the State of Kansas from charges on account of ordnance-stores furnished to Kansas Territory.

Preamble.

Whereas, it appears from the books of the Ordnance Bureau of the War Department that the State of Kansas stands charged with eleven thousand four hundred and twenty-five dollars for arms issued to the Territory of Kansas; and