AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

States and the rules of said court; and that the said Court of Claims shall have full jurisdiction to hear and determine such claim or demand, according to the principles of justice and international law.

Proceedings in the cause.

SEC. 2. That at the hearing or on the trial of any suit so commenced, either party, plaintiff or defendant, shall have the right to use before the court any testimony or documents which may be relevant to, and competent upon, the issues joined between the parties; and that the proceedings, trial, decision, and judgment of the said court shall be had in the same manner as in all other cases before the said Court of Claims, and have the same effect; and that either party, plaintiff or defendant may appeal from the decision or judgment of the said Court of Claims to the Supreme Court of the United States in the same manner as now provided for in other cases: *Provided, however*, That if any final judgment be found in favor of a claimant or plaintiff, the same shall only be paid and satisfied out of the balance of said Chinese indemnity fund; and if said judgment shall be in favor of the defendant, then such claimants shall be forever barred in law and equity from hereafter making any claim upon or against said fund.

Judgment.

Approved, June 19, 1878.

June 19, 1878.

CHAP. 320.—An act to authorize the claimants to certain lands in Santa Barbara County, California, to submit their claim to the United States district court for that State for adjudication.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the claimants to lands situated in Santa Barbara County, California, known as the Rancho Las Cruces, who reraign title through the original Mexican grantee of said rancho, are hereby permitted and authorized to present their claim to said lands to the district court of the United States for the district of California for examination; and if, upon the hearing of said case, it shall appear to said court that the claim of the original grantee was good and valid under Mexican laws relating to such cases, the said court shall by decree confirm said claim: *Provided*, That no lands shall be confirmed to said claimants by said decree exceeding in area eight thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight acres, nor any lands to which there are any valid claims existing under the pre-emption or homestead laws of the United States at the date of the passage of this act; nor shall any decree of confirmation affect any valid adverse right of any other person or persons, or give to the confirmees, or any of them, any claim upon the United States for compensation for any land such confirmees may lose by reason of pre-emption or homestead claims or adverse rights as aforesaid: *Provided further*, that said claimants, before filing their claim shall execute releases to any persons who may be in possession of any portion of said lands under valid claims under the pre-emption, homestead, or other laws of the United States at the date of the passage of this act, to the portions of said lands so held respectively; and before rendering a decree of confirmation, the said court shall ascertain that said releases have been duly executed.

Rancho Las Cruces.

Claimants may proceed in district court of California.

Limits of confirmation.

Preliminary releases.

Appeal.

SEC. 2. That in case said claim is rejected by said court then said claimants are hereby granted the right of appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, within the time and in the manner now provided by law in like cases. The said courts in the examination of the claims presented by any person under this act, shall be governed, so far as applicable, by the provisions of the act passed March third anno Domini eighteen hundred and fifty-one, entitled "An act to ascertain and settle private land claims in the State of California."

Law governing case.

1851, ch. 41, 9 Stat., 631.

Survey on filing final decree.

SEC. 3. That the United States surveyor-general for California is hereby directed, upon the filing in his office by said claimants of a certified copy of a final decree of confirmation, under the provisions of this act, to cause said claim to be surveyed as other claims of like nature are

now surveyed under existing laws; and upon the approval of said survey by the Commissioner of the General Land Office a patent shall issue to said claimants in the usual form. Patent.

Approved, June 19, 1878.

CHAP. 321.—An act regulating exemptions in the District of Columbia. June 19, 1878.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the earnings, not to exceed one hundred dollars each month of all actual residents of the District of Columbia, and who are married persons, or who have to provide for the support of a family in said District, for two months next preceding the issuing of any writ or process from any court or justice of the peace, or other officer of and in said District, against them, shall be exempt from attachment, levy, seizure, or sale upon such process; and the same shall not be seized, levied on, taken, reached, or sold by attachment, execution, or any other process, or proceedings of any court, judge, justice of the peace, or other officer of and in said District: *Provided*, That this act and nothing herein contained shall apply, or in any manner affect any existing debt, contract, note, or judgment. District of Columbia. Earnings exempt from execution in. *Proviso.*

SEC. 2. That all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and they are hereby, repealed. Repeals.

Approved, June 19, 1878.

CHAP. 322.—An act to provide for the holding of terms of the district and circuit courts of the United States at city of Charlotte, North Carolina June 19, 1878.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That additional terms of the district and circuit courts of the United States for the western district of North Carolina shall hereafter be held in the city of Charlotte, in said State, and that said terms shall commence respectively on the second Monday of June and the second Monday of December in each and every year and shall continue until the business is disposed of. North Carolina. Terms of courts in western district of.

That this act take effect from and after its passage.

Approved, June 19, 1878.

CHAP. 323.—An act to create a revenue in the District of Columbia by levying a tax upon all dogs therein, to make such dogs personal property, and for other purposes. June 19, 1878.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be levied a tax of two dollars each per annum upon all dogs owned or kept in the District of Columbia; said tax to be collected as other taxes in said District are or may be collected. District of Columbia. Dog-tax in.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the collector of taxes, upon receipt of said tax, to give to the person paying the same, for each dog so paid for, a suitable metallic tag, stamped with the year, showing that said tax has been duly paid; and he shall keep a record of all such payments, with the date thereof, and the name, color, and sex of such dog, and the name of the person claiming any dog so paid for; and a copy of such record, certified under the hand and official seal of the said collector, which shall be given to any person demanding the same, upon payment of twenty-five cents therefor, shall be prima-facie evidence of such payment in any court of the District of Columbia. Tax-tags. Record. Evidence of payment.

SEC. 3. The poundmaster of the District of Columbia shall, during the entire year, seize all dogs found running at large without the tax- Dogs without tags.