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tions be removed at the expense of the owner or owners of said bridge.

Jurisdiction of courts.

And in case of any litigation arising from any obstruction or alleged obstruction to the free navigation of said river, caused or alleged to be caused by said bridge, the case may be brought in the district court of the United States of the State of Missouri, in which any portion of said obstruction or bridge may be located: *Provided further*, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to repeal or modify any of the provisions of law now existing in reference to the protection of the navigation of rivers, or to exempt this bridge from the operation of the same.

Existing laws.

Use of bridge.

SEC. 4. That all railroad companies desiring the use of said bridge shall have and be entitled to equal rights and privileges relative to the passage of railway-trains over the same, and over the approaches thereto, upon payment of a reasonable compensation for such use; and in case the owner or owners of said bridge and the several railroad companies, or any one of them, desiring such use, shall fail to agree upon the sum or sums to be paid, and upon rules and conditions to which each shall conform in using said bridge, all matters at issue between them shall be decided by the Secretary of War, upon a hearing of the allegations and proofs of the parties.

Regulations by Secretary of War.

SEC. 5. That any bridge authorized to be constructed under this act shall be built and located under and subject to such regulations for the security of navigation of said river as the Secretary of War shall prescribe; and, to secure that object, the said company or corporation shall submit to the Secretary of War, for his examination and approval, a design and drawings of the bridge, and a map of the location, giving, for the space of one mile above and one mile below the proposed location, the topography of the banks of the river, the shore-lines at high and low water, the direction and strength of the currents at all stages, and the soundings, accurately showing the bed of the stream, the location of any other bridge or bridges, and shall furnish such other information as may be required for a full and satisfactory understanding of the subject; and until the said plan and location of the bridge are approved by the Secretary of War, the bridge shall not be built; and should any change be made in the plan of said bridge during the progress of construction, such change shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of War.

Map and drawings.

Approval.

Amendment and repeal.

SEC. 6. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, March 13, 1878.

March 15, 1878.

CHAP. 34.—An act further to suspend the operations of section five thousand five hundred and seventy-four of the Revised Statutes of the United States, title seventy-two, in relation to guano islands.

R. S., 5574, p. 1086, suspended.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section five thousand five hundred and seventy-four, title seventy-two, of the Revised Statutes of the United States, be, and the same is hereby, further suspended, as therein set forth, for the period of five years next from and after the passage of this act.

Approved, March 15, 1878.

March 16, 1878.

CHAP. 37.—An act to make persons charged with crimes and offences competent witnesses in the United States and Territorial Courts.

Accused persons may testify.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in the trial of all indictments, informations, complaints, and other proceedings against persons charged with the commission of crimes, offences, and misdemeanors, in the United States courts, Territorial courts, and courts-martial, and courts of inquiry, in any State or Territory, including the District of