AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

ing of those documents; and wherever in title forty-eight or fifty of the Revised Statutes any of the aboved-named documents are required to be surrendered or returned to the Register of the Treasury, such requirement is hereby repealed, and such documents shall be surrendered and returned to the Commissioner of Navigation. Said Commissioner shall have charge of all similar documents now in the keeping of the Register of the Treasury, and shall perform all the duties hitherto devolved upon said Register relating to navigation.

R. S., Title 48, 795; R. S., Title 50, 833.

Duties devolving upon Register of Treasury relating to navigation to be performed by Commissioner of Navigation.

SEC. 3. That the Commissioner of Navigation shall be charged with the supervision of the laws relating to the admeasurement of vessels, and the assigning of signal letters thereto, and of designating their official number; and on all questions of interpretation growing out of the execution of the laws relating to these subjects, and relating to the collection of tonnage tax, and to the refund of such tax when collected erroneously or illegally, his decision shall be final.

Duties.

SEC. 4. That the Commissioner of Navigation shall annually prepare and publish a list of vessels of the United States belonging to the commercial marine, specifying the official number, signal letters, names, rig, tonnage, home port, and place and date of building of evry vessel, distinguishing in such list sailing-vessels from such as may be propelled by steam or other motive power. He shall also report annually to the Secretary of the Treasury the increase of vessels of the United States, by building or otherwise, specifying their number, rig, and motive power. He shall also investigate the operations of the laws relative to navigation, and annually report to the Secretary of the Treasury such particulars as may, in his judgment, admit of improvement or may require amendment.

To make report annually to Secretary of Treasury.

SEC. 5. That the Commissioner of Navigation shall, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, be empowered to change the names of vessels of the United States, under such restrictions as may have been or shall be prescribed by act of Congress.

Empowered to change names of vessels, etc.

SEC. 6. That the Commissioner of Navigation shall be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall receive a salary of four thousand dollars per annum. And the Secretary of the Treasury shall have power to transfer from existing Bureaus or divisions of the Treasury one clerk, to be designated as deputy commissioner of navigation, to act with the full powers of said Commissioner during his temporary absence from his official duty for any cause, and such additional clerks as he may consider necessary to the successful operation of the Bureau of Navigation, without impairing the efficiency of the Bureaus or divisions whence such clerks may be transferred

Appointment of Commissioner.

Salary.

Clerk, etc.; transfer of, to be deputy commissioner.

SEC. 7. That this act shall be in force and take effect on and after July first, eighteen hundred and eighty-four.

Approved, July 5, 1884.

CHAP. 222.—An act to relieve certain soldiers from the charge of desertion.

July 5, 1884.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the charge of desertion now standing on the rolls and records in the Office of the Adjutant General of the United States against any soldier who served in the late war in the volunteer service shall be removed in all cases where it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Secretary of War, from such rolls and records, or from other satisfactory testimony, that any such soldier served faithfully until the expiration of his term of enlistment, or until the first day of May, anno Domini eighteen hundred and sixty five, having previously served six months or more, or was prevented from completing his term of service by reason of wounds received or disease contracted in the line of duty, but who, by reason of absence

Soldiers charged with desertion, relief of; conditions.

from his command at the time the same was mustered out, failed to be mustered out and to receive an honorable discharge, *Provided*, That no soldier shall be relieved under this section who, not being sick or wounded, left his command without proper authority whilst the same was in the presence of the enemy.

Proviso.

Terms and proof upon which relief may be granted.

SEC 2. That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to remove the charge of desertion from the records of any soldier in the late war upon proper application therefor and satisfactory proof in the following cases:

First, That such soldier, after such charge of desertion was made, and within a reasonable time thereafter, voluntarily returned to his command and served faithfully to the end of his term of service.

Second. That such soldier absented himself without proper authority from hospital, or from furlough given from hospital, while suffering from wounds, injuries, or disease received or contracted in the service in the line of duty, and, on recovery, voluntarily returned to his command and served faithfully until discharged, or died from such wounds, injury, or disease while so absent and before the date of the muster out of his command.

Third. That such soldier absented himself without proper authority from furlough given by proper authority, and while so absent died from wounds, injury or disease received or contracted in the service in the line of duty before the muster out of his command.

Certificate of discharge.

SEC. 3. That in all cases where the charge of desertion shall be removed under the provisions of this act from the record of any soldier who has not received a certificate of discharge, it shall be the duty of the Adjutant General of the United States to issue to such soldier, or, in case of his death, to his heirs or legal representatives, a certificate of discharge.

Pay and bounty.

SEC 4. That when the charge of desertion shall be removed under the provisions of this act from the record of any soldier, such soldier, or, in case of his death, the heirs or legal representatives of such soldier, shall receive the pay and bounty due to such soldier, *Provided, however*, That this act shall not be so construed as to give to any such soldier, or, in case of his death, to the heirs or legal representatives of any such soldier, any pay bounty or allowance for any period of time during which such soldier was absent from his command without proper authority. nor shall it be so construed as to give any pay, bounty, or allowance to any soldier, his heirs or legal representatives, who served in the Army a period of less than six months,

Proviso.

Applications for relief to be filed, etc.

SEC 5. That all applications for relief under this act shall be made to and filed with the Secretary of War within the period of five years from and after its passage, and all applications not so made and filed within said term of five years shall be forever barred and shall not be received or considered.

SEC, 6, That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed,

Approved, July 5, 1884.

July 5, 1884.

CHAP. 223.—An act to authorize the location of a branch home for disabled volunteer soldiers and sailors in either the State of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri or Nebraska, and for other purposes.

Branch home for disabled volunteer soldiers and sailors authorized.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Board of Managers of the Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers are hereby authorized and directed to locate a branch of the home at some suitable point in either the States of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, or Nebraska. The same shall not be located on a tract of land less than three hundred and twenty acres in extent.

Location.