

Changes.

Commencement and
completion.

Proviso.

Amendment, etc.

and the location of any other bridge or bridges, such map to be sufficiently in detail to enable the Secretary of War to judge of the proper location of said bridge, 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 commenced or built, and should any change be made in the plans of said bridge during the progress of its construction such changes shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of War.

SEC. 6. That this act shall be null and void if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized be not commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date hereof: *Provided*, That Congress reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal this act whenever the public interests so require.

Approved, April 15, 1892.

April 15, 1892.

CHAP. 46.—An act authorizing the Velasco Terminal Railway Company to construct a bridge across the Brazos River, in the State of Texas.

Velasco Terminal
Railway Company
may bridge Brazos
River, Texas.

Railway, wagon, and
foot bridge.

Tolls.

Construction.

Spans.

Piers.

Proviso.

Opening draw.

Lights, etc.

Location.

Secretary of War to
approve plans, etc.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the assent of Congress is hereby given to the Velasco Terminal Railway Company, a corporation incorporated and organized under the laws of the State of Texas, and to its successors and assigns, to construct and maintain a bridge and approaches thereto across the Brazos River, in the State of Texas, between its mouth and a point twelve miles up said river. Said bridge shall be so constructed as to provide for the passage of railway trains, and, at the option of the said corporation, may be used for the passage of wagons and vehicles of all kinds, for the transit of animals, and for foot passengers, for reasonable rates of toll, to be fixed by said company, and approved by the Secretary of War.

SEC. 2. That any bridge built under this act shall be constructed as a pivot drawbridge, with a draw over the main channel at an accessible and the best navigable point, and with spans giving a clear water way, measured at the lowest stage of water known at the locality, of such width and height as the Secretary of War may, upon examination, prescribe; and the lowest part of the superstructure of the bridge shall be of such elevation above the plane of the highest flood known at the locality as the Secretary of War may deem advisable; and the piers of said bridge shall be parallel to and the bridge shall be at right angles to the current of the river: *Provided*, That the draw shall be opened promptly upon reasonable signal for the passage of boats and other water craft, except when trains are passing over the draw; but in no case shall unnecessary delay occur in opening the draw during or after the passage of trains; and said corporation shall maintain at its own expense, from sunset to sunrise, such lights and other signals on said bridge as the Light-House Board shall prescribe, and said corporation shall provide at its own expense such sheer booms, guide piers, and other device as may be necessary to facilitate the safe passage of boats or other water craft through the spans of said bridge. The said bridge shall be located and built under and subject to such regulations for the security of the navigation of said river as the Secretary of War shall prescribe; and to secure that object the said company shall submit to the Secretary of War, for his examination and approval, a design and drawings of said bridge and a map of the location, giving, for the space of one mile below and one mile above 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 current at all stages, and the soundings, accurately showing the bed and channel of the stream, and shall furnish such other information as shall be required for a full and satisfactory understanding of the subject; and until the said location and

plans of the bridge hereby authorized to be constructed are approved by the Secretary of War, the said bridge shall not be commenced or built; and should any change be made in the plan of such bridge during the progress of construction thereof, such change shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of War; and any alteration or changes that may be required by the Secretary of War in the bridge constructed under this act shall be made by the corporation owning or controlling the same at its own expense; and in case of any litigation arising from the obstruction or alleged obstruction caused by said bridge to the free navigation of said river, the cause may be tried before the circuit court of the United States in whose jurisdiction any portion of the bridge is located.

SEC. 3. That the bridge authorized to be constructed under this act 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 transmission over the same of the mails, troops, and the munitions of war of the United States, than the rate per mile paid for their transmission over the railroads leading to said bridge; and equal privileges in the use of said bridge shall be granted to all telegraph and telephone companies; and the United States shall have the right of way across said bridge and its approaches for postal telegraph purposes.

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 or cars 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 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.

SEC. 5. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this act is hereby expressly reserved; and if said bridge shall not be commenced in one year and be finished within three years from the passage of this act, the rights and privileges hereby granted as to such bridge shall be null and void.

Approved, April 15, 1892.

CHAP. 47.—An act making Velasco a subport of entry.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first paragraph of section twenty-five hundred and seventy-eight of the Revised Statutes of the United States be, and the same is hereby, amended so that it shall read as follows:

"SEC. 2578. There shall be in the State of Texas five collection districts, as follows: First. The district of Galveston, to comprise all the waters and shores of the State north and east of the counties of Matagorda and Wharton as bounded on the third day of March, eighteen hundred and forty-seven, for which Galveston shall be the port of entry, Velasco a subport of entry, and Sabine and Houston ports of delivery."

Approved, April 15, 1892.

CHAP. 49.—An act to amend an act entitled "An act to authorize the Oregon and Washington Bridge Company to construct and maintain a bridge across the Columbia River, between the State of Oregon and the State of Washington, and to establish it as a post road."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That "An act to authorize the Oregon and Washington Bridge Company to construct and maintain a

Changes.

Litigation.

Lawful structure and post route.

Postal telegraph.

Use by other railroad companies.

Compensation.

Disagreements.

Secretary of War to decide.

Amendment, etc.

Commencement and completion.

April 15, 1892.

Galveston collection district, Tex.
R. S., sec. 2578, p. 509, amended.

Galveston collection district.

Velasco, a subport of entry.

April 18, 1892.

Oregon and Washington Bridge Company's bridge across Columbia River.