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proper authorities of the State of South Carolina, in accordance with an act of the legislature of that State approved December twenty-fourth, anno Domini eighteen hundred and ninety, the amount of money to which said State is now entitled under the act of Congress approved August thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety, entitled "An act to apply a portion of the proceeds of the public lands to the more complete endowment and support of the colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts established under the provisions of an act of Congress approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two."

Vol. 26, p. 417.

Approved, July 26, 1892.

July 26, 1892.

CHAP. 255.—An act in relation to the execution of declarations and other papers in pension claims.

Pensions.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That declarations of pension claimants shall be made before a court of record, or before some officer thereof having custody of its seal, or before some officer who, under the laws of his State, city or county, has authority to administer oaths for general purposes; and said officers are hereby fully authorized and empowered to administer and certify any oath or affirmation relating to any pension or application therefor: *Provided*, That where such declaration or other papers are executed before an officer authorized as above but not required by the laws of his State to have and use a seal to authenticate his official acts, he shall file in the Pension Bureau a certificate of his official character, showing his official signature and term of office, certified by a clerk of a court of record or other proper officer of the State as to the genuineness thereof; and when said certificate has been filed in the Bureau of Pensions his own certificate will be recognized during his term of office.

Declarations may be made before any officer authorized to administer oaths.

R. S., sec. 4719, p. 919, amended.

Proviso.

Certificate of official character to be filed.

Recognized during term of office.

Declarations made in foreign countries.

SEC. 2. That the Commissioner of Pensions may accept declarations and other papers of claimants residing in foreign countries made before a United States minister or consul or other consular officer, or before some officer of the country duly authorized to administer oaths for general purposes, and whose official character and signature shall be duly authenticated by the certificate of a United States minister or consul or other consular officer; and declarations in claims of Indians may be made before a United States Indian agent.

Declarations of Indians.

Curing defective declarations, etc.

SEC. 3 That any and all declarations or affidavits now on file in the Pension Bureau which are considered informal by reason of not having been executed in conformity to the laws heretofore in force covering such, and in which it is shown or may be hereafter shown by proper evidence that the same were executed by and before an officer who was duly authorized to administer oaths for general purposes at said date of execution, shall be accepted as formal as from date of filing such declarations or affidavits.

Repeal.

SEC. 4. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Approved, July 26, 1892.

July 26, 1892.

CHAP. 256.—An act to legalize the deed and other records of the Office of Indian Affairs, and to provide and authorize the use of a seal by said office

Indian Department.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the recording of all deeds and papers heretofore made and done in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs be, and is hereby, confirmed, approved, and legalized; and said record heretofore made shall be deemed, taken, and held to be good and valid and shall have all the force and effect and be entitled to the same credit as if it had been made in pursuance of and in conformity

Recording of deeds, etc., in Indian Office, legalized.