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February 18, 1895.

CHAP. 98.—An Act To bridge the Newark Bay.

Newark Bay, N. J. Bayonne and Elizabeth may bridge.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the boards of chosen freeholders of the counties of Hudson and Union, in the State of New Jersey, or the legally constituted authorities of the city of Bayonne and the city of Elizabeth, as may be determined by the authorities of the State of New Jersey, shall be, and they are hereby, authorized to locate, build, maintain, equip, and operate a bridge across Newark Bay, in the State of New Jersey, between the city of Elizabeth, in the county of Union, and the city of Bayonne, in the county of Hudson, at a point not less than five hundred feet above the present bridge structure known as the Central Railroad bridge: *Provided*, That the bridge herein authorized shall be built as a drawbridge, with a draw giving a clear width of opening of not less than one hundred feet and said bridge shall be located and built in such manner and under such regulations for the security of navigation as the Secretary of War may prescribe; and to secure that object the parties proposing to build said bridge shall submit to the Secretary of War, for his examination and approval, a design and drawing of the bridge and a map of the location, 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 and the said bridge shall be held to be a public highway forever: *Provided also*, That the draw of said bridge shall be promptly opened, upon reasonable signal, for the passage of vessels and boats; and the owners of said bridge shall maintain thereon, from sunset to sunrise, such lights and other signals as the Light-House Board shall prescribe.

Location.

Provisos.
Draw.

Secretary of War to approve plans, etc.

Opening draw.

Lights, etc.

Commencement and completion.

SEC. 2. 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 approval of this Act.

Amendment, etc.

SEC. 3. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, February 18, 1895.

February 19, 1895.

CHAP. 100.—An Act To extend the jurisdiction of justices of the peace in the District of Columbia, and to regulate the proceedings before them.

District of Columbia.
Jurisdiction of justices of the peace.
R. S, D. C., sec. 997, p. 117, amended.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That justices of the peace of the District of Columbia shall have jurisdiction to hear, try, and determine all civil pleas and actions, including attachment and replevin, when the amount claimed to be due or the value of the property sought to be recovered shall not exceed three hundred dollars, except in cases where the title to real estate is in issue, actions for malicious prosecution, actions against justices of the peace or other officers for misconduct in office, and actions for slander, verbal or written, and actions for damages for breaches of promise to marry.

Exclusive jurisdiction.

SEC. 2. That such jurisdiction shall be exclusive original jurisdiction where the amount claimed to be due or the value of the property sought to be recovered shall not exceed one hundred dollars, and original and concurrent with the supreme court of the District of Columbia where the amount claimed to be due or the value of the property sought to be recovered is more than one hundred dollars, but does not exceed three hundred dollars; and where the sum claimed exceeds twenty dollars either party shall be entitled to a trial by jury.

Concurrent.

Jury trials.

Limit of appeals.

SEC. 3. That no appeal shall be allowed from the judgment of a justice of the peace in any common-law action unless the matter in demand in such action or pleaded in set-off thereto, shall exceed the sum of five dollars, nor unless the appellant, with sufficient surety, approved by