AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

CHAP. 29.—An Act To reduce the cases in which the penalty of death may be inflicted. January 15, 1897.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in all cases where the accused is found guilty of the crime of murder or of rape under sections fifty-three hundred and thirty-nine or fifty-three hundred and forty-five, Revised Statutes, the jury may qualify their verdict by adding thereto "without capital punishment;" and whenever the jury shall return a verdict qualified as aforesaid the person convicted shall be sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor for life.

Death penalty.
Life imprisonment for murder or rape if verdict qualified.
R. S., secs. 5339, 5345, pp. 1036, 1038.

SEC. 2. That except offenses mentioned in sections fifty-three hundred and thirty-two, thirteen hundred and forty-two, sixteen hundred and twenty-four, fifty-three hundred and thirty-nine, and fifty-three hundred and forty-five, Revised Statutes, when a person is convicted of any offense to which the punishment of death is now specifically affixed by the laws of the United States, he shall be sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor for life, and when any person is convicted of an offense to which the punishment of death, or a lesser punishment, in the discretion of the court, is affixed, the maximum punishment shall be imprisonment at hard labor for life.

Imprisonment for life substituted for death penalty.
Exceptions.
Army and Navy crimes, murder, and rape.
R. S., secs. 1342, 1624, 5332, 5339, 5345, pp. 230, 275, 1036, 1038.

SEC. 3. That the punishment of death prescribed for any offense specified by the statutes of the United States, except in sections fifty-three hundred and thirty-two, thirteen hundred and forty-two, sixteen hundred and twenty four, fifty-three hundred and thirty-nine, and fifty-three hundred and forty-five, Revised Statutes, is hereby abolished, and all laws and parts of laws inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed.

Death penalty abolished.
Exceptions.
R. S., secs. 1342, 1624, 5332, 5339, 5345, pp. 230, 275, 1036, 1038.

SEC. 4. That nothing herein contained shall apply to or in any way affect any proceeding or indictment now found or pending or that may be found for any offense committed before the passage of this Act, and all offenses committed before the passage of this Act shall be punished under the laws then in force: *Provided*, That juries may return qualified verdicts in such cases according to the provisions of section one of this Act, and the sentences shall be imposed as therein provided.

Pending proceedings not affected.
Proviso.
Qualified verdicts allowed.

SEC. 5. That any Indian who shall commit the offense of rape within the limits of any Indian reservation shall be punished by imprisonment at the discretion of the court. So much of the ninth section of chapter three hundred and forty-one of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-five as is inconsistent herewith is herewith repealed.

Punishment for rape by Indians.
Limitation of State jurisdiction, etc.
Vol. 23, p. 385.

Approved, January 15, 1897.

CHAP. 30.—An Act Approving certain acts of the legislative assembly of the Territory of New Mexico, authorizing the issue of certain bonds of said Territory, and for other purposes. January 16, 1897.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the coupon bonds and indebtedness of the Territory of New Mexico, amounting to seventy-five thousand dollars, authorized by section seven of an act of the thirty-first legislative assembly of the Territory of New Mexico, entitled "An act authorizing the rebuilding of the Territorial capitol at Santa Fe, which was destroyed by fire May twelfth, eighteen hundred and ninety-two, and to provide the necessary means therefor and a board with authority to rebuild the same," approved February fifth, eighteen hundred and ninety-five, and designated as capitol rebuilding bonds of the Territory of New Mexico;

New Mexico.
Issues of bonds approved.
Capitol rebuilding bonds.

Also, the bonds and indebtedness, amounting to fifteen thousand dollars, authorized by section one of an act of the said legislative assembly of the Territory of New Mexico, entitled "An act to provide for the maintenance of the military institute at Roswell, New Mexico," approved February thirteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-five;

Roswell military institute.