AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

the same and over the approaches thereto upon the payment of a reasonable compensation for such use; and in case the owner or owners of such bridge and the several companies, or any one 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; and equal privileges in the use of said bridge shall be granted to all telegraph and telephone companies. Compensation.

SEC. 5. That any bridge constructed under this Act shall be a lawful structure and shall be known as a post road, over which no higher charge shall be made for the transportation of mails, troops, and munitions of war, or other property of the Government of the United States, or for passengers or freight passing over the same, than the rate per mile charged for their transportation over the railways or public highways leading to said bridge. The United States shall also have the right of way over said bridge for postal-telegraph purposes. Lawful structure and post route. Postal telegraph.

SEC. 6. That said bridge herein authorized to be constructed shall be so kept and managed at all times as to afford proper means and ways for the passage of vessels, barges, or rafts, both by day and by night; and there shall be displayed on said bridge by the owners thereof, from sunset to sunrise, such lights or other signals as the Light-House Board may prescribe; and such changes shall be made from time to time in the structure of said bridge as the Secretary of War may direct, at the expense of the said company, in order the more effectually to preserve the free navigation of said river. Aids to navigation. Lights, etc.

SEC. 7. That this Act shall be null and void unless the construction of said bridge shall be commenced within one year and completed within three years from the passage of this Act. Commencement and completion.

SEC. 8. That Congress shall have power at any time to alter, amend, or repeal this Act. Amendment, etc.

Approved, January 26, 1897.

CHAP. 92.—An Act For the relief of telegraph operators who served in the war of the rebellion. January 26, 1897.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized and directed to prepare a roll of all persons who served not less than ninety days in the operation of military telegraph lines during the late civil war, and to issue to each, upon application, unless it appears that his service was not creditably performed, or to the representatives of those who are dead, suitable certificates of honorable service in the military telegraph corps of the Army of the United States, stating the service rendered, the length of such service, and the dates, as near as may be, between which such service was performed: *Provided*, That this law shall not be construed to entitle the persons herein mentioned to any pay, pension, bounty, or rights not herein specifically provided for. Telegraph operators. Record of military service to be prepared. *Proviso.* No pay, etc.

Approved, January 26, 1897.

CHAP. 93.—An Act Authorizing the Kansas City, Watkins and Gulf Railway Company to construct and maintain a bridge across Red River at the city of Alexandria, Louisiana. January 26, 1897.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Kansas City, Watkins and Gulf Railway Company, a corporation created and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Louisiana, be, and is hereby, authorized to construct and maintain a bridge across Red River at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, at the city of Alexandria, Kansas City, Watkins and Gulf Railway Company may bridge Red River, Alexandria, La. Railway, etc., bridge.