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eighteen hundred and ninety-four, be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to extend the time for the commencement of the construction of said bridge to one year and its completion to three years from the approval of this Act.

Time extended for construction. Vol. 28, p. 121.

Approved, February 8, 1897.

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*CHAP. 176.—An Act To authorize the mayor and city council of Monroe, and the police jury of the parish of Ouachita, Louisiana, to construct a traffic bridge across the Ouachita River opposite said city.

February 8, 1897.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the mayor and city council of the city of Monroe, and the police jury of the parish of Ouachita, in the State of Louisiana, are hereby authorized and empowered to construct, operate, and maintain a general traffic bridge across the Ouachita River, to be located at such point, within or near the corporate limits of said city as shall be approved by the Secretary of War: *Provided*, That said bridge shall be constructed as a drawbridge, and the draw shall be opened promptly, upon reasonable signal, for the passage of boats; and whatever kind of bridge is constructed the owners thereof shall maintain thereon, at their own expense, from sunset to sunrise, such lights or other signals as the Light-House Board shall prescribe: *Provided further*, That if the said bridge shall be constructed to provide for the passage of street-railway cars, all street-railroad companies desiring the use of the bridge shall have equal privileges in the passage of trains or cars over the same, and over the approaches thereto, upon payment of a reasonable compensation for such use; and in case of disagreement in regard to the terms of such use, or the rates to be paid, the matters at issue shall be decided by the Secretary of War.

Monroe and Ouachita Parish, La., may bridge Ouachita River.

Provisos. Drawbridge.

Lights, etc.

Use by street railroads, etc

Compensation.

SEC. 2. That any bridge built under the provisions of this Act shall be a lawful structure, and shall be recognized and known as a post route, upon which no higher charge shall be made for the transmission over the same of the mails, troops, and munitions of war of the United States passing over said bridge than the rate per mile paid for the transportation over the public highways 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 approaches for postal-telegraph purposes; and said bridge shall be so constructed and operated as not to interfere with the navigation of said river.

Lawful structure and post route.

Postal telegraph.

Free navigation.

SEC. 3. That said municipal corporation shall have the right to charge and collect a reasonable rate of toll, to be approved by the Secretary of War, not exceeding the rate limited by the law of Louisiana.

Toll.

SEC. 4. That the bridge authorized to be constructed under this Act 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 corporation shall submit to the Secretary of War, for his examination and approval, a design and drawings of the proposed bridge, and a map of the location, giving for the space of one-half mile above and one-half mile below 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 currents, and the soundings, accurately showing the bed of the stream, 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, no work upon the bridge shall be commenced; and should any change be made in the plan of said bridge during the progress of construction, such change shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of War.

Secretary of War to approve plans, etc.

Changes.

Commencement and completion.

SEC. 5. 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 of approval hereof.

Amendment, etc.

SEC. 6. That Congress hereby expressly reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act.

Approved, February 8, 1897.

February 8, 1897.

CHAP. 177.—An Act To provide an American register for the bark Ceres.

"Ceres," Bark. Granted American register and name changed to "Lichtenfels Brothers."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Commissioner of Navigation is hereby authorized and directed to cause the bark Ceres, built in Maine, recently owned by foreigners, but now owned by citizens of the United States, to be registered as a vessel of the United States, under the name of Lichtenfels Brothers.

Approved, February 8, 1897.

February 8, 1897.

CHAP. 178.—An Act To constitute a new division of the eastern judicial district of Texas, and to provide for the holding of terms of court at Beaumont, Texas, and for the appointment of a clerk for said court.

Texas eastern judicial district. Eastern division constituted. Vol. 20, p. 318. R. S., sec. 548, p. 92.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the counties of Jefferson, Orange, Newton, Jasper, Hardin, Liberty, Tyler, San Augustine, Sabine, Polk, and San Jacinto shall constitute a division of the eastern judicial district of Texas.

Terms of court, Beaumont.

SEC. 2. That terms of the circuit and district courts of the United States for the said eastern district of the State of Texas shall be held twice in each year at the city of Beaumont, on the first Mondays in June and December.

Process, etc.

SEC. 3. That all civil process issued against persons resident in the said counties of Jefferson, Orange, Newton, Jasper, Hardin, Liberty, Tyler, San Augustine, Sabine, Polk, and San Jacinto, and cognizable before the United States courts, shall be made returnable to the courts, respectively, to be held at the city of Beaumont; and all prosecutions for offenses committed in either of said counties shall be tried in the appropriate United States court at the city of Beaumont: *Provided*, That no process issued or prosecution commenced or suit instituted before the passage of this Act shall be in any way affected by the provisions hereof.

Proviso. Pending causes, etc.

Deputy clerks, etc.

SEC. 4. That the clerks of the circuit and district courts for said district shall maintain an office in charge of themselves or a deputy at said city of Beaumont, which shall be kept open at all times for the transaction of the business of said division.

Repeal.

SEC. 5. That so much of all acts or parts of acts as are in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 22, 1897.

The President of the United States having returned to the House of Representatives in which it originated the bill (H. R. 9469) "An Act to constitute a new division of the eastern judicial district of Texas, and to provide for the holding of terms of court at Beaumont, Texas, and for the appointment of a clerk for said court," with his objections thereto, the House proceeded in pursuance of the Constitution to reconsider the same; and

Resolved, That the said bill pass, two-thirds of the House of Representatives agreeing to pass the same.

Attest: A. MCDOWELL *Clerk.*