

Lawful structure
and post route.

Provisos.
Postal telegraph.

Submission of plans.

Secretary of War to
approve plans, etc.

Changes.

Proviso.
Channel span.

Aids to navigation.

Lights, etc.

Changes.

Commencement and
completion.

Amendment, etc.

SEC. 3. That any bridge built under this Act and subject to its limitations shall be a lawful structure and shall be recognized and known as a post route, and it shall enjoy the rights and privileges of other post roads in the United States: *Provided*, That the United States may construct a postal telegraph over said bridge without charge therefor: *And provided also*, That the said Mifflin Bridge Company shall not commence the construction of its bridge, bridge piers, abutments, causeways, and other works over or in said Monongahela River until the location and plan of same shall have been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of War.

SEC. 4. That any 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 company or corporation shall submit to the said Secretary of War for his examination and approval a design and drawing of the 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 high and low water lines upon the banks of the river, the direction and strength of the currents at high and low water, with the soundings accurately showing the bed of the stream and the location of any other bridge or bridges, such map to be sufficiently in detail to enable the Secretary of War to judge of the proper location of said bridge, and shall furnish such other information as may be required for the full and satisfactory understanding of the subject. 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 plan of said bridge during the progress of its construction, such change shall be submitted for the approval of the Secretary of War: *Provided*, That the channel span of said bridge shall not be less than five hundred feet in length in the clear, and the clear height of the superstructure shall not be less than fifty-three feet above the level of the water at pool full in said river.

SEC. 5. 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 and other signals as the Light-House Board may prescribe. And such changes shall be made from time to time in the construction of said bridge as the Secretary of War may direct, at the expense of said bridge company, in order the more effectually to preserve the free navigation of said river.

SEC. 6. 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 the approval of this Act.

SEC. 7. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, February 25, 1897.

February 26, 1897.

CHAP. 332.—An Act For the better improvement of the Government reservation at the city of Fort Smith, in the State of Arkansas, and for other purposes.

Fort Smith, Ark.
Extension of streets
through reservation
authorized.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Rogers and Parker avenues, as the same appear on the map and plat of the reserve addition of the city of Fort Smith, Arkansas, be extended in a northwesterly direction, and on a straight line, to the right of way of the Saint Louis and San Francisco Railway Company; and that Second street, as the same appears on the map and plat of the reserve addition of the city of Fort Smith, Arkansas, be extended on a straight line from Garrison avenue in a southwesterly direction to the right of way of the

Saint Louis and San Francisco Railway Company; and that Third street, as the same appears on the map and plat of the reserve addition of said city of Fort Smith, be extended in a straight line from Garrison avenue to the southwesterly line of Parker avenue; that the block of ground included within the boundaries of Rogers and Parker avenues and Second and Third streets, as thus extended by this Act, it being a rectangular block three hundred feet by two hundred and ninety feet two and three-fourths inches, and upon which block is located the public buildings known as the United States jail and hospital, belonging to the United States, be, and the same is hereby, reserved to the United States; that such parts of said ground as shall be occupied for said streets and alleys is hereby donated to the said city of Fort Smith for the purpose of being dedicated to public use.

That said city of Fort Smith is hereby authorized and empowered to remove the old Fort walls and buildings attached thereto, and to dispose of the same for its own use.

That the Secretary of the Interior shall cause said lands to be surveyed into lots and blocks, according to the plans and surveys of said city, and shall file a plat showing such survey in his office, and he shall cause the portions thereof, not specifically reserved herein, to be sold at public auction, to the highest bidder, upon such terms and under such regulations as he may direct; and upon the full payment of the purchase money, execute proper conveyances to the purchaser or purchasers thereof.

The funds arising from the sale of said lots shall be turned into the Treasury to the credit of the United States.

Approved, February 26, 1897.

Jail and hospital reserved.

Lands donated.

Disposal of old fort.

Sale of lots.

Proceeds.

CHAP. 333.—An Act To provide for closing the crevasse in Pass a Loutre, one of the outlets of the Mississippi River.

February 26, 1897.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to close the crevasse in Pass a Loutre of the Mississippi River, to be expended under the direction and according to the plans and specifications of the Secretary of War.

Mississippi River. Appropriation for closing crevasse in Pass a Loutre.

SEC. 2. That nothing herein contained shall be held or construed to destroy or impair any right or rights of the United States arising under the Acts of March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, June nineteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, and March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, containing the contract or contracts between James B. Eads and such persons as might become associated with him and the United States, or to release the legal representatives of said James B. Eads or other persons associated with him, jointly or severally, from any obligation, expressed or implied, arising under and from said Acts or other Acts pertaining thereto: *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall be held or construed to release in anywise the executors of the estate of James B. Eads as such executors, or the associates of said James B. Eads, jointly or severally, in whole or in part, from any liability which now exists, if any such liability does exist, for a failure to close said Pass a Loutre crevasse, and the question of such liability shall be referred to the Attorney-General for his decision; and should the decision of the Attorney-General, after a full hearing to both parties, be to the effect that the responsibility for the closing of the said Pass a Loutre crevasse rests upon the executors of the estate of James B. Eads as such executors, and the associates of the said James B. Eads, jointly or severally, under existing laws, then upon the completion of the twenty years' contract for the maintenance of the channel in South

Contracts with Jas. B. Eads not impaired. Vol. 18, p. 463; Vol. 20, pp. 168, 376.

Proviso. Liability of estate of James B. Eads, referred to Attorney-General. Money to be withheld.