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matters at issue shall be decided by the Secretary of War upon the hearing of the allegations and proofs of the parties.

Secretary of War to approve plans, etc.

SEC. 3. That said bridge shall not be built or commenced until the plans and location of the same shall have been approved by the Secretary of War; and no change shall be made in its construction, and no alteration of it shall be made after its construction, unless such change or alteration shall in like manner receive the approval of the Secretary of War.

Authority to begin work.

SEC. 4. That the Secretary of War, upon receiving the design, drawings, and specifications of said bridge, and a map of the location, and such other information as he may call for, and upon being satisfied that the bridge when built according to such design and drawings will be in accordance with the requirements of this Act, and will not unreasonably obstruct the navigation of said river, be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to approve said design, drawings, and specifications, and to so notify said county of Knox; and upon receiving such notification the said county of Knox may proceed to construct said bridge, conforming strictly to the approved design, drawings, and specifications.

Lawful structure and post route.

SEC. 5. That any bridge built under this Act, and according to its limitations, shall be a lawful structure, and shall be recognized and known as a post route upon which the mails, troops, and munitions of war of the United States shall be transmitted free of charge.

Amendment, etc.

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

Commencement and completion.

SEC. 7. 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 hereof.

Approved, March 28, 1896.

March 28, 1896.

CHAP. 79.—An Act For the reconstruction of the Rock Island bridge.

Rock Island, Ill. Appropriation for bridge. Vol. 28, p. 942. *Post*, p. 438.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of ninety-six thousand dollars is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the reconstruction of the Rock Island Bridge, as authorized by the Act making appropriations for the sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-six, approved March second, eighteen hundred and ninety-five.

Approved, March 28, 1896.

March 30, 1896.

CHAP. 82.—An Act Authorizing the Saint Louis, Oklahoma and Southern Railway Company to construct and operate a railway through the Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory, and for other purposes.

Saint Louis, Oklahoma and Southern Railway Company granted right of way, Indian and Oklahoma Territories.

Location, Indian Territory.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Saint Louis, Oklahoma and Southern Railway Company, a corporation created under and by virtue of the laws of the Territory of Oklahoma, be, and the same is hereby, authorized and invested and empowered with the right of locating, constructing, owning, equipping and operating, using and maintaining a railway and telegraph and telephone line through the Indian and Oklahoma Territories, beginning at a point to be selected by said railway company at and between Claremore and Sapulpa, on the Saint Louis and San Francisco Railroad, in the Cherokee and Creek Nations, Indian Territory, and running thence in a westerly and southerly direction, over the most practicable and feasible route, through or near the Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, and Chickasaw Nations, Indian Territory, to a point at or near Stonewall, to a point on the Red River at or near Willis, Indian Territory, and from thence through the State of Texas to a point at or near Aransas Pass, State of Texas, with the right to