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brigade shall consist of one assistant adjutant-general, one assistant quartermaster, and one commissary of subsistence, each with the rank of captain, one surgeon, and the aids-de-camp authorized by law. The staff officers herein authorized for the corps, division, and brigade commanders may be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as officers of the Volunteer Army, or may be assigned by him, in his discretion, from officers of the Regular Army or the Volunteer Army, or of the militia in the service of the United States: *Provided*, That when relieved from such staff service said appointments or assignments shall terminate.

Appointment of staff officers.

Post, p. 421.

Proviso.
Termination of appointment.

SEC 11. That the President is hereby authorized to appoint in the Volunteer Army, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, not exceeding one major-general for each organized army corps and division, and one brigadier-general for each brigade, and any officer so selected and appointed from the Regular Army shall be entitled to retain his rank therein: *Provided*, That each general officer of the Volunteer Army shall be entitled to the number of aids-de-camp authorized for an officer of like grade in the Regular Army.

Appointment of major and brigadier generals, Volunteer Army.

Proviso.
Aids-de-camp.

SEC. 12. That all officers and enlisted men of the Volunteer Army, and of the militia of the States when in the service of the United States, shall be in all respects on the same footing as to pay, allowances, and pensions as that of officers and enlisted men of corresponding grades in the Regular Army.

Status of officers, etc., Volunteer Army.

SEC. 13. That the governor of any State or Territory may, with the consent of the President, appoint officers of the Regular Army in the grades of field officers in organizations of the Volunteer Army, and officers thus appointed shall be entitled to retain their rank in the Regular Army: *Provided*, That not more than one officer of the Regular Army shall hold a commission in any one regiment of the Volunteer Army at the same time.

Appointment of officers of Regular to Volunteer Army.
Post, p. 421.

Proviso.
Limit.

SEC. 14. That the general commanding a separate department or a detached army is authorized to appoint from time to time military boards of not less than three nor more than five Volunteer officers of the Volunteer Army to examine into the capacity, qualifications, conduct, and efficiency of any commissioned officer of said army within his command: *Provided*, That each member of the board shall be superior in rank to the officer whose qualifications are to be inquired into: *And provided further*, That if the report of such a board is adverse to the continuance of any officer, and the report be approved by the President, such officer shall be discharged from service in the Volunteer Army, at the discretion of the President, with one month's pay and allowances.

Military boards to determine efficiency of officers.

Provisos.
Rank of members of board.
Adverse report.

SEC. 15. That all Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with the provisions hereof be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Repeal.

Approved, April 22, 1898.

April 25, 1898.

CHAP. 188.—An Act To amend an Act entitled "An Act giving the consent of the United States to the erection of a bridge across Portage Lake, Houghton County, Michigan, between the villages of Houghton and Hancock," approved March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-one.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act entitled "An Act giving the consent of the United States to the erection of a bridge across Portage Lake, Houghton County, Michigan, between the villages of Houghton and Hancock," approved March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, be, and the same is hereby, amended by adding a new section, to stand as section seven, as follows:

Bridge across Portage Lake, Michigan.

Vol. 26, p. 833.

"SEC. 7. That all railroad companies desiring to use that portion of said bridge constructed for railroad purposes shall have and be entitled to equal rights and privileges in the passing over the same, and in the use of the machinery and fixtures thereof and of the approaches thereto, for a reasonable compensation, to be paid to the owner or owners thereof;

Rights of railroads to use.

Disagreement with owner of bridge.

and if the owner or owners of said bridge and the several railroad companies, or either or any of them desiring such use, shall fail to agree upon the sum or sums to be paid under the rules and conditions to which each shall conform in using the same, 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, of which hearing each party shall have due notice, and the determination of the Secretary of War thereof shall be binding upon the parties to such controversy."

Approved, April 25, 1898.

April 25, 1898.

CHAP. 189.—An Act Declaring that war exists between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain.

Declaration that war exists between the United States and Spain.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, First. That war be, and the same is hereby, declared to exist, and that war has existed since the twenty-first day of April, anno Domini eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, including said day, between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain.

Land and naval forces to be used.

Second. That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several States, to such extent as may be necessary to carry this Act into effect.

Approved, April 25, 1898.

April 26, 1898.

CHAP. 191.—An Act For the better organization of the line of the Army of the United States.

Army.
Reorganization of the line.
Peace organization infantry regiments.
R. S., sec. 1106, p. 204, amended.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That hereafter the peace organization of each regiment of infantry now in service shall embrace one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, two majors, ten captains, twelve first lieutenants, ten second lieutenants, one sergeant-major, one quartermaster-sergeant, one chief musician, two principal musicians, two battalions of four companies each, and two skeleton or unmanned companies; the organized companies to be constituted as now authorized by law: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed as abolishing the office of chaplain in each regiment of colored troops: *And provided further*, That the vacancies in the grade of major created by this section shall be filled by promotion according to seniority in the infantry arm.

R. S., sec. 1107, p. 204.
Provisos.
Chaplains colored regiments.
R. S., sec. 1121, p. 205.
Vacancies in grade of major, how filled.

War organization, addition of third battalion.

SEC. 2. That upon a declaration of war by Congress, or a declaration by Congress that war exists the President, in his discretion, may establish a third battalion for each infantry regiment, consisting of four companies, to be supplied by manning the two skeleton companies and by organizing two additional companies. The vacancies of commissioned officers in the additional companies shall be filled by promotions by seniority in the infantry arm, and by appointments in accordance with existing law; and hereafter all vacancies occurring in the cavalry, artillery, and infantry above the grade of second lieutenant shall, subject to the examination now required by law, be filled by promotion according to seniority from the next lower grade in each arm.

Vacancies of commissioned officers.

—above second lieutenant.

SEC. 3. That upon a declaration of war by Congress, or a declaration of Congress that war exists, the enlisted strength of a company, troop, and battery, respectively, may, in the discretion of the President, be increased to comprise not exceeding:

War organization of companies of infantry.

For each company of infantry: One first sergeant, one quartermaster-sergeant, four sergeants, twelve corporals, two musicians, one artificer,