AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Replacing stone boundary wall, etc.

said company of said strip: *And provided further*, That the stone boundary wall on the Allegheny River front of the Allegheny Arsenal, which must be removed to permit the desired extension of the railway, be replaced, or its equivalent, on the new boundary line, all free of cost to the United States, and to be approved by the Secretary of War:

Construction of siding, etc.

And provided further, That the said Allegheny Valley Railway Company shall construct for the use of the Government, on the approval of the Secretary of War, a siding about five hundred and seventy-seven feet long through the said arsenal property, said siding paralleling the said strip of ground hereinbefore described, all free of cost to the United States in addition to the price paid for the said property.

Approved, February 28, 1900.

March 1, 1900.

CHAP. 29.—An Act To authorize Frank Hitch to construct and maintain a bridge across Fishing Creek within the boundary lines of Edgecombe County, North Carolina.

Frank Hitch may bridge Fishing Creek, Edgecombe County, N. C.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Frank Hitch be, and is hereby, authorized to construct and maintain a railroad bridge for the passage of railway engines and cars across Fishing Creek at such point as may be selected by said Hitch and approved by the Secretary of War within the boundary lines of Edgecombe County, North Carolina, said bridge to be so constructed as not to obstruct the navigation of said river, and to be provided with a suitable draw: *Provided*, That any bridge constructed under this Act and according to its limitations shall be a lawful structure, and shall be known and recognized as a post route, and the same is hereby declared to be a post route, and the United States shall have the right of way for a postal telegraph across said bridge.

Proviso.
To be lawful structure, etc.

Secretary of War to approve plans, changes, etc.

SEC. 2. 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 creek as the Secretary of War shall prescribe; and the said Hitch shall submit to the Secretary of War, for his examination and approval, a design and drawing of the proposed bridge and a map of the location, giving, for the space of one-fourth of a mile above and one-fourth of a 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.

Amendment.

Obstruction to navigation.

SEC. 3. That Congress reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act at any time; and that if at any time navigation of said creek shall in any manner be obstructed or impaired by the said bridge, the Secretary of War shall have authority, and it shall be his duty, to require the said bridge company to alter and change the said bridge, at its own expense, in such manner as may be proper to secure free and complete navigation without impediment.

Draw

SEC. 4. That the draw provided for the bridge herein authorized to be constructed shall be opened promptly, upon reasonable signal, for the passing of boats, which said Hitch shall maintain at his own expense; and if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized shall not be commenced within one year from the passage of this Act

Commencement and completion.

and be completed within three years from same date, the rights and privileges hereby granted shall cease and be determined.

Approved, March 1, 1900.

CHAP. 30.—An Act To authorize the Natchitoches Railway and Construction Company to build and maintain a railway and traffic bridge across Red River at Grand Ecore, in the parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana. March 1, 1900.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Natchitoches Railway and Construction Company, a corporation duly incorporated and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Louisiana, be, and is hereby, authorized to construct and maintain, by itself or through its assignees, a railway and traffic bridge across Red River at a point suitable to the interest of navigation, at Grand Ecore, parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana. Said bridge shall be constructed to provide for passage of railway trains, and for all legitimate traffic of foot, horse, vehicle, animal, and all other legitimate purposes, and for transmission of the mails, at such legal rates of toll as may be fixed by said railway company or its transferees and approved by the Secretary of War, except to the people of the parish of Natchitoches, to whom the use of said bridge shall at all times and under all circumstances be free. Natchitoches Railway, etc., Company may bridge Red River at Grand Ecore, La. Transit, toll, etc.

SEC. 2. That said 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, upon which also no higher charge shall be made for the transmission over the same of the mails, the troops, and munitions of war of the United States than the rate per mile paid for the transportation over the railroad or public highways leading to the said bridge, and shall enjoy the rights and privileges of other post roads in the United States; 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 its approaches for postal telegraph purposes: *Provided*, That the bridge herein authorized to be constructed shall be so kept and managed by the company owning or operating it as to afford proper ways and means for the passage through or under it of vessels, barges, or rafts at all times, both by day and by night. And if said bridge be constructed as a drawbridge, the draw shall be opened promptly upon reasonable signal for the passage of boats; and upon whatever kind of bridge is built there shall be displayed, from sunset to sunrise, at the expense of said company, such lights and signals as the Light-House Board shall prescribe. To be lawful structure and post route. Telegraph, etc., companies. *Proviso.* Aids to navigation. Draw. Lights.

SEC. 3. That if said bridge, erected and maintained under the authority of this Act, shall at any time substantially or materially obstruct the free navigation of said river, or shall, in the opinion of the Secretary of War, obstruct such navigation, he is hereby authorized to cause such change or alteration of said bridge to be made as will effectually obviate such obstruction; and such alteration shall be made and all such obstructions be removed at the expense of the owner or operators of said bridge; and in case of any litigation arising from the obstruction or alleged obstruction to the free navigation of said river, the case may be brought in the district court of the United States for the western district of Louisiana: *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall be so construed as to repeal or modify any of the provisions of law now existing in reference to the protection of the navigation of rivers, or to exempt said bridge from the operation of same. Obstructions to navigation. —alterations. —litigation. *Proviso.* Existing law unaffected.

SEC. 4. That all railroad companies desiring to use the said bridge shall have and be entitled to equal rights and privileges relative to the Right of railroads to use.