

April 12, 1900.

**CHAP. 190.**—An Act To authorize the Shreveport and Red River Valley Railway Company to build and maintain a railway bridge across Red River, at or near the town of Alexandria, in the Parish of Rapides, State of Louisiana.

Shreveport and Red River Valley Railway may bridge Red River at Alexandria, La.

Transit, tolls, etc.

To be lawful structure and post route.

Telegraph, etc., companies.

*Proviso.*  
Aids to navigation.

Draw.

Lights.

Alterations.

Litigation.

*Proviso.*  
Existing law unchanged, etc.

Railroad rights to use.

Secretary of War to approve plans, etc.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Shreveport and Red River Valley Railway 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 bridge across Red River at a point suitable to the interest of navigation, at or near the town of Alexandria, in the parish of Rapides, State of Louisiana. Said bridge shall be constructed to provide for passage of railway trains, 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.

**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 on said bridge from sunset to sunrise, at the expense of said company, such lights and signals as the Light-House Board shall prescribe.

**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 owners 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.

**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 passage of railway trains over the same and the approaches thereto upon the payment of a reasonable compensation for such use, which compensation may be different in case of different railways. In case of disagreement as to compensation for the use of said bridge, the difference shall be determined by the Secretary of War upon hearing the allegations and proof of the parties in interest.

**SEC. 5.** That the bridge authorized to be constructed under this Act shall be built and located under and subject to such regulations for the security of 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 Secretary of War, for his examination and approval, a design and drawing of said bridge, and a map of the location, prepared with reference to known datum plane upon prescribed scales furnished by the engineer officer having supervision of said river, and giving, for the space of two miles above and two miles below the proposed location of the bridge, the topography of the banks of the river, with shore lines at high and low water, the direction and strength of the currents at all stages, and the soundings accurately showing the bed of the stream, the location of any other bridge or bridges, and shall furnish such other information as may be required for a full and satisfactory understanding of the subject. And until said plans and location of the bridge are approved by the Secretary of War the bridge shall not be built; and should any change be made in the plan of the said bridge during the process of construction, such change shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of War, and said structure shall be changed at the cost and expense of the owners thereof, from time to time, as the Secretary of War may direct, so as to preserve the free and convenient 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 hereof.

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

Approved, April 12, 1900.

**CHAP. 191.**—An Act Temporarily to provide revenues and a civil government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes.

April 12, 1900.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the provisions of this Act shall apply to the island of Porto Rico and to the adjacent islands and waters of the islands lying east of the seventy-fourth meridian of longitude west of Greenwich, which were ceded to the United States by the Government of Spain by treaty entered into on the tenth day of December, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight; and the name Porto Rico, as used in this Act, shall be held to include not only the island of that name, but all the adjacent islands as aforesaid.

Porto Rico.  
Provisions for civil  
government, etc.  
Scope of act.  
Vol. 30, p. 1754.

SEC. 2. That on and after the passage of this Act the same tariffs, customs, and duties shall be levied, collected, and paid upon all articles imported into Porto Rico from ports other than those of the United States which are required by law to be collected upon articles imported into the United States from foreign countries: *Provided*, That on all coffee in the bean or ground imported into Porto Rico there shall be levied and collected a duty of five cents per pound, any law or part of law to the contrary notwithstanding: *And provided further*, That all Spanish scientific, literary, and artistic works, not subversive of public order in Porto Rico, shall be admitted free of duty into Porto Rico for a period of ten years, reckoning from the eleventh day of April, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, as provided in said treaty of peace between the United States and Spain: *And provided further*, That all books and pamphlets printed in the English language shall be admitted into Porto Rico free of duty when imported from the United States.

Tariff on foreign im-  
ports.

*Provisos.*  
—coffee.

Spanish books ad-  
mitted free.

English books from  
the United States.

SEC. 3. That on and after the passage of this Act all merchandise coming into the United States from Porto Rico and coming into Porto Rico from the United States shall be entered at the several ports of entry upon payment of fifteen per centum of the duties which are required to be levied, collected, and paid upon like articles of merchandise imported from foreign countries; and in addition thereto upon articles of merchandise of Porto Rican manufacture coming into the

Tariff as between  
the United States and  
Porto Rico.

—on Porto Rican  
manufactures.