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February 5, 1901.

CHAP. 200.—An Act Extending the time for the commencement and completion of the bridge across the Missouri River at or near Oacoma, South Dakota.

Time extended to Chicago, Sioux Falls and Pacific Railway to bridge Missouri River at Oacoma, S. Dak.
Vol. 30, p. 805.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the time for the commencement of the bridge across the Missouri River at or near the village of Oacoma, in the State of South Dakota, authorized by the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to authorize the construction of a bridge at or near Oacoma, South Dakota," approved January twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, be, and the same is hereby, extended to January twenty-eighth, nineteen hundred and two, and the time for the completion of said bridge be, and the same is hereby, extended to January twenty-eighth, nineteen hundred and four.

Approved, February 5, 1901.

February 6, 1901.

CHAP. 217.—An Act Amending the Act of August fifteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-four, entitled "An Act making appropriations for current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department and fulfilling treaties and stipulations with various Indian tribes for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-five," and for other purposes.

Allotments of land to Indians.
Vol. 28, p. 305, amended.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That that portion of the Act of August fifteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-four, found on page three hundred and five of Twenty-eighth Statutes at Large, be amended so as to read as follows:

Actions for allotments alleged to be unlawfully denied.

"That all persons who are in whole or in part of Indian blood or descent who are entitled to an allotment of land under any law of Congress, or who claim to be so entitled to land under any allotment Act or under any grant made by Congress, or who claim to have been unlawfully denied or excluded from any allotment or any parcel of land to which they claim to be lawfully entitled by virtue of any Act of Congress, may commence and prosecute or defend any action, suit, or proceeding in relation to their right thereto in the proper circuit court of the United States; and said circuit courts are hereby given jurisdiction to try and determine any action, suit, or proceeding arising within their respective jurisdictions involving the right of any person, in whole or in part of Indian blood or descent, to any allotment of land under any law or treaty (and in said suit the parties thereto shall be the claimant as plaintiff and the United States as party defendant);

Judgments.

and the judgment or decree of any such court in favor of any claimant to an allotment of land shall have the same effect, when properly certified to the Secretary of the Interior, as if such allotment had been

Lands excepted.

allowed and approved by him, but this provision shall not apply to any lands now held by either of the Five Civilized Tribes, nor to any of the lands within the Quapaw Indian Agency: *Provided*, That the right of appeal shall be allowed to either party as in other cases.

Proviso.
Appeal.

Service of petition.

"SEC. 2. That the plaintiff shall cause a copy of his petition filed under the preceding section to be served upon the district attorney of the United States in the district wherein suit is brought, and shall mail a copy of same, by registered letter, to the Attorney-General of the United States, and shall thereupon cause to be filed with the clerk of the court wherein suit is instituted an affidavit of such service and

Appearance by district attorney, etc.

the mailing of such letter. It shall be the duty of the district attorney upon whom service of petition is made as aforesaid to appear and defend the interests of the Government in the suit, and within sixty days after the service of petition upon him, unless the time should be extended by order of the court made in the case to file a plea, answer, or demurrer on the part of the Government, and to file a notice of any counterclaim, set-off, claim for damages, or other demand or defense