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tion or test is made at the request of a person either having such lawful right or authorized to convey the same to the Government.

Gathmann torpedo gun test.

To enable the Secretary of War to make a comparative test of destructive energy between the Gathmann torpedo gun now at Sandy Hook and the Army twelve-inch service rifle, such tests to be made against two similar targets representing the side construction of the latest type of battle ship; each of said structures to be faced with a Kruppized armor plate eight feet by sixteen, and twelve inches thick, and at least ten shots to be fired from the Army rifle against one structure and one or more Gathmann torpedoes against the other; for the erection of the structures and the purchase of materials, armor plates, ammunition, mount for the torpedo gun and other necessary expenses of such test, fifty thousand five hundred and fifty dollars.

Isham shell and Tuttle "thorite."

ISHAM SHELL AND TUTTLE "THORITE."

Inquiry as to feasibility of purchase of patent.

To enable the Secretary of War, in his discretion, and if in his judgment it will be for the best interests of the Government, to purchase the United States Letters Patent Numbered Six hundred and twenty-two thousand four hundred and seventy-nine, issued April fourth, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, covering the Isham high-explosive shell, designed for firing high explosives and carrying the same through armor plate, invented and now owned and controlled by Willard S. Isham, and also to purchase the entire and exclusive right for the United States to manufacture and use the high explosive "thorite," invented and now owned and controlled by Doctor Hiram P. Tuttle, one hundred thousand dollars: *Provided*, That all formulæ, data, and facts related to said process and necessary to the successful manufacture of said "thorite" shall be placed in the possession of the Secretary of War, and to his satisfaction, before any payment for the same shall be made: *Provided further*, That before any money shall be expended in the purchase of said patent the Secretary of War shall be satisfied, after full investigation, that the Government of the United States shall have a lawful right to use said patent, without the use of same being an infringement upon any prior invention, patent, or pending application for patent covering said invention or any material part thereof.

Proviso.
Formula, etc., "thorite" process to be included in sale.

Patent not to infringe.

Purchases to be of American manufacture.

That all material purchased under the foregoing provisions of this Act shall be of American manufacture, except in cases when, in the judgment of the Secretary of War, it is to the manifest interest of the United States to make purchases in limited quantities abroad, which material shall be admitted free of duty.

Approved, March 1, 1901.

March 1, 1901.

CHAP. 678.—An Act Authorizing Calhoun County, State of Texas, to construct and maintain a free bridge across Lavaca Bay.

Calhoun County, Tex., may bridge Lavaca Bay —location.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the county of Calhoun, State of Texas, be, and is hereby, authorized to construct and maintain a free bridge across Lavaca Bay, in said State and county, at a point between Nobles Point on one side of said bay and Coxs Point on the other, for the passage of all legitimate traffic of foot, horse, vehicle, animal, and all other legitimate purposes, and for transmission of mails free of all rates of toll whatsoever.

Aids to navigation.

SEC. 2. That the bridge herein authorized to be constructed shall be so kept and managed by said county 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 night, and if the bridge be constructed as

a drawbridge the draw shall be opened promptly upon reasonable signal for the passage of boats as the Light-House Board may prescribe. 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 bay, 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 obstruction be removed at the expense of said county, and in case of any litigation arising from obstruction or alleged obstruction to the free navigation of said bay the case may be brought in the district court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof: *Provided*, That nothing in this Act 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 and bays or to exempt said bridge from the operation of the same. Unobstructed navigation. *Proviso.* Existing law unimpaired.

SEC. 4. 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 bay as the Secretary of War shall prescribe; and to secure that object the said county shall submit to the Secretary of War, for his examination and approval, a design and drawings of said bridge and a map of the location, prepared with reference to known datum plane upon prescribed scale, furnished by the engineer officer having supervision of said bay, 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 bay, 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 the 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. Secretary of War to approve plans.

SEC. 5. That the bridge constructed, maintained, and operated 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 also no higher charge shall be made for the transportation over the same of the mails, the troops, and the munitions of war of the United States than the rate per mile paid for transportation of said mails, troops, and munitions over the railroads and public highways leading to said bridge; and the United States shall have the right of way for postal, telegraph, and telephone purposes over said bridge. Lawful structure and post route.

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. Commencement and completion.

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

Approved, March 1, 1901.

CHAP. 800.—An Act To carry into effect the stipulations of article seven of the treaty between the United States and Spain concluded on the tenth day of December, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight. March 2, 1901.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, five suitable persons learned in the law, who shall constitute a commission, whose duty it shall be, and it shall have jurisdiction, to Commission to adjudicate claims of citizens of the United States against Spain (vol. 30, p. 1757) constituted.