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enable the Secretary of War to judge of the proper location of said bridge, and shall furnish such other information as may be required for a full and satisfactory understanding of the subject; and until such plan and location of the bridge are approved by the Secretary of War the bridge shall not be commenced or built, and should any change be made in the plan of said bridge during the progress of construction, or after completion, such change shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of War; and the owners of said bridge shall, at their own expense, make such changes therein as the Secretary of War may at any time order in the interest of navigation. Changes.

SEC. 6. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved. Amendment.

SEC. 7. That this Act shall be null and void unless the bridge herein authorized is commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date of approval hereof. Time of construction.

Approved, February 28, 1903.

CHAP. 970.—An Act To amend an Act entitled "An Act to incorporate the Masonic Mutual Relief Association of the District of Columbia." March 2, 1903. [Public, No. 127.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That sections two and three of an Act entitled "An Act to incorporate the Masonic Mutual Relief Association of the District of Columbia," approved March third, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, as amended by the Act entitled "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to incorporate the Masonic Mutual Relief Association of the District of Columbia,' approved March third, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine," approved February twentieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-three, as amended by the Act entitled "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to incorporate the Masonic Mutual Relief Association of the District of Columbia,' approved February fifth, nineteen hundred and one," be amended so as to read as follows: District of Columbia Masonic Mutual Relief Association. Vol. 15, p. 335. Vol. 27, p. 464. Vol. 31, p. 759 amended.

"SEC. 2. That membership in this association shall be limited to master Masons, and that the particular business and objects of the society or corporation shall be to provide and maintain a fund for the benefit of the widow, orphans, heir, assignee, or legatee of a deceased member immediately upon proof of such death; and for this purpose it shall and may be lawful for the said society or corporation to make all and every insurance appertaining to or connected with life risks of whatever kind and nature, and because of its fraternal and benevolent purposes it shall be defined and classed as a fraternal beneficial association: *Provided*, *however*, That upon all policies which shall be issued for a specified amount it shall be required to maintain a reinsurance reserve fund not less than that computed upon the American experience table of mortality at four per centum interest. Membership limited. Objects of the corporation. Life insurance. *Proviso.* Reinsurance reserve fund.

"SEC. 3. That the number of directors of said association shall be at least twenty-one, a number of whom, less than a majority, shall be elected annually by the members of the association from among themselves and shall serve for three years; that the annual meeting of said association shall, after the year nineteen hundred and three, be held on the third Tuesday in February of each year, and for this purpose the terms of service of the present directors shall be, and are hereby, extended to the date of the annual meeting succeeding the expiration of their present terms of service. In all cases of a tie vote the choice to be determined by lot, and in all other cases a majority vote shall decide. And said directors shall, at their first meeting succeeding the annual meeting of the association, elect one of their number to be Directors. Term of service three years. Annual meetings. Voting. Officers.

president of the board of directors, who shall also be president of the association, and shall elect one of their number as vice-president, and one of their number as secretary, and one of their number or a member of the association as secretary of the association, and the said secretary of the association shall give bonds with security to said association in such sum as the board of directors may require for the faithful discharge of his duties; and one of their number as treasurer, who shall also give bonds with surety to said association in such sum as the said board of directors may require for the faithful discharge of his trust. At all meetings of the board of directors a majority of the board shall form a quorum. In case of any vacancy in the board of directors, by death, resignation, or otherwise, such vacancy shall be filled by the remaining directors from among the members of said association, who shall serve until the next annual meeting of the association, at which time a successor shall be elected to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Quorum.

Vacancies.

Approved, March 2, 1903.

March 2, 1903.

[Public, No. 128.]

CHAP. 971.—An Act To authorize the Pearl and Leaf Rivers Railroad Company to bridge Pearl River in the State of Mississippi.

Pearl River, Miss. Pearl and Leaf Rivers Railroad Company may bridge, at Smiths Ferry.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Pearl and Leaf Rivers Railroad Company, a railroad corporation duly incorporated and organized under the laws of the State of Mississippi, its successors or assigns, be, and is hereby, authorized to construct and maintain a railroad bridge, with single or double track, and approaches thereto, over and across the Pearl River at or near Smiths Ferry, in Lawrence County, State of Mississippi, subject to the conditions and limitations hereinafter specified.

Unobstructed navigation.

SEC. 2. That said bridge shall not interfere with the free navigation of said river beyond what may be necessary to carry into effect the rights and privileges herein granted; and in case of any litigation arising under the provisions of this Act from any obstruction or alleged obstruction to the navigation of said stream, such litigation may be tried and determined by the proper circuit or district court of the United States within whose jurisdiction said bridge is located.

Litigation.

Lawful structure and post route.

SEC. 3. That any 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 no higher charge shall be made for the transmission of mails and the troops and munitions of war of the United States over the same than the rate per mile paid for the transportation over the railroad or approaches leading to the said bridge; and it 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, and telephone purposes.

Telegraph, etc., rights.

Drawbridge.

SEC. 4. That said bridge over said stream shall be constructed as a draw bridge. The drawspan shall be over the main channel of the said stream at an accessible navigable point and the openings on each side of the pivot pier shall be not less than one hundred and fifteen feet in the clear, unless otherwise expressly directed by the Secretary of War, and if so directed shall be according to such direction, and the said openings shall be accessible at all stages of water; and the spans shall be not less than thirty-six feet above extreme low water, as understood at the point of location, to the lowest part of the superstructure of the bridge; and the piers and draw shall be parallel with,