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with the company. No suit shall be brought upon any such claim for damages until after the expiration of said sixty days, and no member of the company shall be incompetent as a witness in such suit on account of his said membership.

Meetings.

SEC. 13. That a general meeting of said company shall be held annually at such time and place as shall be designated in the by-laws. The president may, at any time, call a special meeting of the company, and shall do so at the request in writing of fifty members. The election of trustees shall be held at the annual meeting, and shall be by ballot, and each member shall have one vote on each risk, which must be deposited by the policy holder. At least two weeks' previous notice of each annual or special meeting shall be given by publication in two newspapers of general circulation in the city of Washington: *Provided*, That at any called meeting of the company the trustees, or any of them, may be removed by a vote of three-fourths of the members present and voting, and the vacancies thus created may be filled at such meeting for the unexpired term; but notice of such proposed action shall be given in the call for the meeting.

Election of trustees.

Publication of notice.

Proviso.
Removal of trustees.

Vacancies.

Publication of financial statement.

SEC. 14. That the board of trustees of said company shall cause to be published annually, in some newspaper of general circulation in the city of Washington, and at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting of the members, a statement of its financial condition, in which shall be shown the amount of premium notes and cash on hand, the amount of securities held by the company, the amount of losses, if any, during the previous year, and such other items relating to the business of the company as said board may think proper.

Banking privileges not granted.

SEC. 15. That nothing in this charter shall be construed to grant banking privileges or the right to issue any note to circulate as currency or money. It shall, however, be lawful for said company to employ and improve all moneys received by it and the profits thereon in such manner as the trustees may deem best for the interest of the company; but the said company shall not purchase and hold real estate, at any one time, in excess of a cash value of fifty thousand dollars: *Provided*, That this shall not include any purchase to protect the interests of the company at sales under trusts, mortgages, judgments, or decrees.

Investment of funds.

Real estate holdings limited.

Proviso.
Purchases under trusts, etc., not included.

Amendment.

SEC. 16. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, January 28, 1905.

CHAP. 286.—An Act To authorize the construction of a bridge across Sunflower River in Sharkey County, Mississippi.

January 28, 1905.
[H. R. 17100.]
[Public, No. 32.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Delta Southern Railway, a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Mississippi, be, and is hereby, authorized to construct, maintain, and operate a railroad bridge, with as many tracks as it may deem necessary for railroad traffic, across the Sunflower River at a point suitable to the interests of navigation in the county of Sharkey and State of Mississippi.

Sunflower River, Miss.
Delta Southern Railway may bridge, in Sharkey County.

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 river as the Secretary of War shall prescribe, and to secure that object the said corporation shall submit to the Secretary of War for his examination and approval a design and drawing of the bridge and a map of the location, giving, for the space of one mile above and below the proposed location, the depth

Secretary of War to approve plans, etc.

and currents of the river at all points and the location of any other bridge or bridges, together with all other information touching said bridge and river as may be deemed requisite by the Secretary of War to determine whether said bridge, when built, will conform to the provisions of this Act and cause no serious obstruction to the navigation of the river or injuriously affect the flow of water.

Unobstructed navigation.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized and directed, upon receiving such plan and map and upon being satisfied that a bridge built on such plan and at such locality will conform to the provisions of this Act and cause no serious obstruction to the navigation of the river, or injuriously affect the flow of water, to notify the said corporation that he approves the same; and upon receiving such notification the said corporation may proceed to the erection of said bridge, conforming strictly to the approved plan and location; but until the Secretary of War shall approve the plan and location of said bridge and notify the said corporation of the same in writing the bridge shall not be built or commenced, and should any change be made in the plan of the bridge during the progress of the work thereon, or after completion, such change shall be subject likewise to the approval of the Secretary of War; and the said bridge shall be changed by the said company at its own expense whenever the Secretary of War shall so direct in the interest of navigation.

Changes.

Lawful structure and post route.

SEC. 4. That any bridge constructed under this Act shall be a lawful structure, and shall be known as a post-road, for which no higher charge shall be made for the transportation of mail, troops, and munitions of war or other property of the United States over the same than the rate per mile charged for such transportation over the railways leading to said bridge. The United States shall also have a right of way over said bridge for postal, telegraph, and telephone purposes, and equal privileges in the use of said bridge shall be granted to all telegraph and telephone companies.

Telegraph, etc., rights.

Lights, etc.

SEC. 5. That the said bridge shall be so kept and managed at all times as not to interfere with the passage of vessels, barges, and rafts, both by day and by night, and there shall be displayed on said bridge by the owner thereof, from sunset to sunrise, such lights or other signals as the Light-House Board may prescribe.

Use by other roads.

SEC. 6. That all railroad companies desiring the use of 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 payment of a reasonable compensation for such use, or, in case of disagreement, upon such terms and conditions as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of War upon hearing the allegations and proofs of the parties in interest.

Compensation.

Time of construction.

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

Amendment.

SEC. 8. That the right to amend, alter, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, January 28, 1905.

January 31, 1905.
[H. R. 12898.]

[Public, No. 33.]

CHAP. 287.—An Act To create a new division in the eastern judicial district of the State of Missouri.

United States courts.
Missouri eastern district.
Southeastern division established.
Vol. 24, p. 424, amended.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a new division of the eastern judicial district of the State of Missouri, to be known as the southeastern division judicial district of Missouri, be, and the same is hereby, established, to be composed of the following counties, to wit: Cape Girardeau, Scott, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Dunklin,