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**CHAP. 779.**—An Act For the relief of certain homestead settlers in the State of Alabama.

February 24, 1905.
[S. 6017.]
[Public, No. 101.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That where any homestead entry heretofore allowed under ruling of the Land Department, for lands within the limits of the grant made by Act of Congress approved June third, eighteen hundred and fifty-six (Eleventh Statutes, page eighteen), to the State of Alabama in aid of the construction of the railroad known as the Mobile and Girard Railroad has been canceled because of a superior claim to the land through purchase from the railroad company, which claim has been held to have been confirmed and a confirmatory patent issued for the land under the provisions of section four of the Act of March third, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven (Twenty-fourth Statutes, page five hundred and fifty-six), such homesteader is hereby accorded the privilege of transferring his claim thus initiated under the homestead laws to any other nonmineral unappropriated public land subject to homestead entry, with full credit for the period of residence and for the improvements made upon his homestead hereinbefore first described prior to the order of its cancellation, provided he has not forfeited or voluntarily abandoned his homestead claim and that his application for transfer is presented within one year from the date of the passage of this Act. Should he elect, however, to retain the tract embraced in his homestead entry heretofore canceled, the holder of the patented title through the railroad grant shall thereupon be invited to relinquish or reconvey the land included in such former homestead entry, and upon filing such relinquishment or reconveyance such holder of the patented title shall be entitled to select and receive patent for an equal quantity of nontimbered, nonmineral, and unappropriated public lands subject to homestead entry, and upon the filing of such relinquishment or reconveyance all right, title, and interest under and through the railroad grant and the confirmatory patent hereinbefore referred to shall revert to the United States, and the tract thus relinquished or reconveyed shall be treated and disposed of as other public lands of the United States: *Provided, however*, That such previous homesteader shall be reinstated in his rights and permitted to complete title to the land previously entered, as though no cancellation of his homestead entry had been made.

Alabama.
Transfers allowed for canceled homestead entries on railroad lands.
Vol. 11, p. 18.
Vol. 24, p. 556.
Relinquishment of patented title.
*Proviso.*
Reinstatement of homesteader.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Interior shall prescribe rules and regulations for the administration of this Act.

Rules, etc.

Approved, February 24, 1905.

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**CHAP. 796.**—An Act To authorize the promotion of First Lieutenant Thomas Mason, Revenue-Cutter Service.

February 25, 1905.
[S. 2354.]
[Public, No. 102.]

*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 be, and he is hereby, authorized to advance Lieutenant Thomas Mason, Revenue-Cutter Service, one grade, from first lieutenant to that of captain, on the "Permanent waiting orders" list in the Revenue-Cutter Service, for meritorious acts while in the service of the Navy and of the Revenue-Cutter Service of the United States: *Provided, however*, That no increase in pay or allowance is to be made by the advance in grade hereby authorized.

Thomas Mason.
Promotion in Revenue-Cutter Service authorized.
*Proviso.*
Pay, etc.

Approved, February 25, 1905.