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Commerce and Labor, respectively, and the Department seal affixed thereto, any laws to the contrary notwithstanding: *Provided*, That the said seal shall not be affixed to any such commission before the same shall have been signed by the President of the United States. And all commissions heretofore issued by the Department of Commerce and Labor with the seal of that Department affixed are hereby declared legal and valid.

Proviso. Affixing seal.

Prior commissions valid.

Approved, March 3, 1905.

CHAP. 1423.—An Act Granting to the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company the power to sell and convey to the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company all the railway property, rights, franchises, and privileges of the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company, and for other purposes.

March 3, 1905.
[S. 6647.]
[Public, No. 156.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company be, and it is hereby, authorized and empowered to sell and convey to the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company all the railway property, rights, franchises, and privileges of the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company, and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company is hereby authorized and empowered to purchase, hold, maintain, and operate the railway heretofore constructed or now owned by the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company, subject, however, to all the conditions and limitations contained in the several Acts of Congress authorizing the organization of the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company and the construction of its lines in the Indian Territory: *Provided, however*, That before any such sale and conveyance shall be made the terms thereof shall be approved by a majority of the directors of the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company: *Provided*, That said purchasing company shall, by said purchase, be and become liable and assume the payment of all existing liabilities of said selling company, and all suits now pending against said Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company shall proceed to final judgment the same as if said sale had not been made.

Indian Territory.
Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company.
Sale of, to Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company authorized.
Vol. 28, p. 502.
Vol. 29, p. 98.

Provisos.
Approval by a majority of directors.

Liabilities, etc.

SEC. 2. That all the provisions of any Act of Congress inconsistent with this Act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Repeal.

Approved, March 3, 1905.

CHAP. 1424.—An Act To amend section twenty-two hundred and eighty-eight of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

March 3, 1905.
[S. 6757.]
[Public, No. 157.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section twenty-two hundred and eighty-eight of the Revised Statutes be amended so as to read as follows:

Homestead settlers.
Right of transfer of.
R. S., sec. 2288, p. 419, amended.

"SEC. 2288. Any bona fide settler under the preemption, homestead, or other settlement law shall have the right to transfer, by warranty against his own acts, any portion of his claim for church, cemetery, or school purposes, or for the right of way of railroads, telegraph, telephones, canals, reservoirs, or ditches for irrigation or drainage across it; and the transfer for such public purposes shall in no way vitiate the right to complete and perfect the title to his claim."

Right of transfer extended.

Approved, March 3, 1905.