

United States, over said railroads during the existence of this rebellion, as in view of the public exigency may be just and reasonable, and liquidate the same: *Provided, however,* That the sums paid to said companies shall be as near as may be the cost of transporting such property and troops, and not exceeding the prices fixed by the War Department on the twelfth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, for transportation by railroads, which adjustment and liquidation shall preclude any further claim on behalf of such companies against the Government for compensation or damages previously accrued, or for the military occupation of the said roads by the United States Government up to the time of the passage of this act: *And provided further,* That the Secretary of War may, in his discretion, withhold from time to time such portion of the moneys which may be due to either of said railroad companies, to indemnify the Government against any failure of such company to promptly transport such troops and supplies; but nothing herein shall be so construed as to prevent the Secretary of War from taking possession of said railroads and their appurtenances, and applying the same to the exclusive use of the Government whenever, in his judgment, the public interests may require it, without, in such case, compensation to said companies.

Pay not to exceed, &c.

Part may be withheld.

Railroads may be taken possession of.

APPROVED, March 6, 1862.

[No. 16.] *A Resolution declaratory of the Intent and Meaning of a certain Act therein named.* March 8, 1862.

Whereas doubts have arisen as to the true intent and meaning of act numbered eighteen, entitled "An act to indemnify the States for expenses incurred by them in defence of the United States," approved July twenty-seven, eighteen hundred and sixty-one:

1861, ch. 21.
Ante, p. 276.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the said act shall be construed to apply to expenses incurred as well after as before the date of the approval thereof.

Indemnity to States for war expenses.

APPROVED, March 8, 1862.

[No. 18.] *A Resolution providing for the Payment of the Awards of the Commission to investigate the military Claims in the Department of the West.* March 11, 1862.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all sums allowed to be due from the United States to individuals, companies, or corporations, by the Commission heretofore appointed by the Secretary of War, (for the investigation of military claims against the Department of the West), composed of David Davis, Joseph Holt, and Hugh Campbell, now sitting at St. Louis, Missouri, shall be deemed to be due and payable, and shall be paid by the disbursing officers, either in St. Louis or Washington, in each case, upon the presentation of the voucher with the Commissioners' certificate thereon, in any form, plainly indicating the allowance of the claim and to what amount. This resolution shall apply only to claims and contracts for service, labor, or materials, and for subsistence, clothing, transportation, arms, supplies, and the purchase, hire, and construction of vessels.

Payment of awards of commissioners on military claims in the Department of the West.

APPROVED, March 11, 1862.

[No. 19.] *A Resolution to amend an Act entitled "An Act to carry into Effect Conventions between the United States and the Republics of New Grenada and Costa Rica."* March 15, 1862.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the act entitled "An act to carry into effect conventions between the United States and the Republics of New Grenada and Costa Rica," approved the twentieth day

Unwilling witness may be compelled to testify.
1861, ch. 45, §§ 6, 13.
Ante, p. 145.

of February, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, be amended in its sixth and thirteenth sections, so that when a witness refuses or is unwilling to testify, under the provisions of the said act, the proceedings to compel his testimony may be at the suggestion of either party, instead of at the suggestion of any claimant, as is provided in the said act.

APPROVED, March 15, 1862.

March 15, 1862. [No. 20.] *A Resolution providing for the Custody of the Letter and Gifts from the King of Siam.*

Letter and gifts of the King of Siam.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the letter from His Majesty the Major King of Siam to the President of the United States and the accompanying gifts, be deposited in the collection of curiosities at the Department of the Interior.

APPROVED, March 15, 1862.

March 17, 1862. [No. 21.] *Joint Resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to inquire into the Causes of the Failure of certain Contracts for Steam Machinery, and to remit Penalties connected therewith.*

Penalties for failure to deliver steam machinery may be remitted.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he hereby is, authorized and empowered to inquire into the circumstances attending the failure of certain contractors for building steam machinery, to deliver the same within the time specified in their several contracts; and to remit the whole of the penalties for such failure, or a part thereof, as to him may seem just and equitable.

APPROVED, March 17, 1862.

March 19, 1862. [No. 22.] *A Resolution to authorize the Secretary of War to accept Moneys appropriated by any State for the Payment of its Volunteers, and to apply the same as directed by such State.*

Appropriations of States for volunteers, how applied.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That if any State during the present rebellion shall make any appropriation to pay the volunteers of that State, the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to accept the same, and cause it to be applied by the paymaster-general to the payments designated by the legislative act making the appropriation, in the same manner as if appropriated by act of Congress; and also to make any regulations that may be necessary for the disbursement and proper application of such funds to the specific purpose for which they may be appropriated by the several States.

APPROVED, March 19, 1862.

March 19, 1862. [No. 23.] *A Resolution expressive of the Thanks of Congress to Captain A. H. Foote, of the United States Navy, and to the Officers and Men under his Command in the Western Flotilla.*

Thanks to Captain Foote and the officers and men of the western flotilla.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the thanks of Congress and of the American people are due, and are hereby tendered, to Captain A. H. Foote, of the United States navy, and to the officers and men of the western flotilla under his command, for the great gallantry exhibited by them in the attacks upon Forts Henry and Donaldson, for their efficiency in opening the Tennessee, Cumberland, and Mississippi rivers to the pursuits of lawful commerce, and for their unwavering devotion to the cause of the country in the midst of the greatest difficulties and dangers.

APPROVED, March 19, 1862.