

CHAP. 23.—An act to provide for the expenses and compensation of Special Messengers to be sent by the Secretary of State to the States respectively of Iowa and Oregon, for the certificates of the electoral vote of eighteen hundred and eighty-four, for President and Vice-President of the United States in pursuance of the provisions of section one hundred and forty-one, of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

Jan. 17, 1885.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated to pay the compensation, expenses or mileage as the case may be, of two messengers, one to the State of Iowa and one to the State of Oregon; to receive from the United States District Judge in each of said States the certificate of the electoral vote of December, eighteen hundred and eighty-four, for President and Vice-President of the United States deposited with such Judges under the provisions of section one hundred and forty, of the Revised Statutes of the United States and called for by the Secretary of State under the provisions of section one hundred and forty-one, of the Revised Statutes of the United States. The sum hereby appropriated shall be immediately available and shall be disbursed under the direction of the Secretary of State.

Approved, January 17th, 1885.

Appropriation.
Expenses.
Messengers sent for certificates of electoral votes of Iowa and Oregon for President and Vice-President of the United States, December, 1884.
1792, R. S., chap. 1, sec. 140, p. 23.
1792, R. S., chap. 1, sec. 141, p. 23.

CHAP. 25.—An act to provide for the ascertainment of claims of American citizens for spoliations committed by the French prior to the thirty-first day of July, eighteen hundred and one.

Jan. 20, 1885.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That such citizens of the United States, or their legal representatives, as had valid claims to indemnity upon the French Government arising out of illegal captures, detentions, seizures, condemnations, and confiscations prior to the ratification of the convention between the United States and the French Republic concluded on the thirtieth day of September, eighteen hundred, the ratifications of which were exchanged on the thirty-first day of July following, may apply by petition to the Court of Claims, within two years from the passage of this act, as hereinafter provided: *Provided,* That the provisions of this act shall not extend to such claims as were embraced in the convention between the United States and the French Republic concluded on the thirtieth day of April, eighteen hundred and three; nor to such claims growing out of the acts of France as were allowed and paid, in whole or in part, under the provisions of the treaty between the United States and Spain concluded on the twenty-second day of February, eighteen hundred and nineteen; nor to such claims as were allowed, in whole or in part, under the provisions of the treaty between the United States and France concluded on the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-one.

French spoliation claims.
Claimants may apply by petition within two years.

Proviso.
Certain classes of claims not included.

SEC. 2. That the court is hereby authorized to make all needful rules and regulations, not contravening the laws of the land or the provisions of this act, for executing the provisions hereof.

Court to make needful rules.

SEC. 3. That the court shall examine and determine the validity and amount of all the claims included within the description above mentioned, together with their present ownership, and, if by assignee, the date of the assignment, with the consideration paid therefor: *Provided,* That in the course of their proceedings they shall receive all suitable testimony on oath or affirmation, and all other proper evidence, historic and documentary, concerning the same; and they shall decide upon the validity of said claims according to the rules of law, municipal and international, and the treaties of the United States applicable to the same, and shall report all such conclusions of fact and law as in their judgment may affect the liability of the United States therefor.

Court to determine as to validity, amount, ownership of claims, etc.
Proviso as to testimony and law, and report of conclusions.

Attorney-General of the United States to be notified of all petitions presented, and resist claims by legal defenses.

Secretary of State to procure evidence and documents from abroad.

Record of proceedings and documents to be deposited in State Department.

Court to report to Congress, but finding and report to be taken only as advisory.

Claims barred if not presented in two years.

SEC. 4. That the court shall cause notice of all petitions presented under this act to be served on the Attorney-General of the United States, who shall be authorized, by himself or his assistant, to examine witnesses, to cause testimony to be taken, to have access to all testimony taken under this act, and to be heard by the court. He shall resist all claims presented under this act by all proper legal defenses.

SEC. 5. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to procure, as soon as possible after the passage of this act, through the American minister at Paris or otherwise, all such evidence and documents relating to the claims above mentioned as can be obtained from abroad; which, together with the like evidence and documents on file in the Department of State, or which may be filed in the Department, may be used before the court by the claimants interested therein, or by the United States, but the same shall not be removed from the files of the court; and after the hearings are closed the record of the proceedings of the court and the documents produced before them shall be deposited in the Department of State.

SEC. 6. That on the first Monday of December in each year the court shall report to Congress, for final action, the facts found by it, and its conclusions in all cases which it has disposed of and not previously reported. Such finding and report of the court shall be taken to be merely advisory as to the law and facts found, and shall not conclude either the claimant or Congress; and all claims not finally presented to said court within the period of two years limited by this act shall be forever barred; and nothing in this act shall be construed as committing the United States to the payment of any such claims.

Approved, January 20th, 1885.

Jan. 20, 1885.

CHAP. 26.—An act granting the right of way to the Fremont, Elk Horn and Missouri Valley Railroad Company across the Fort Robinson Military Reservation, in the State of Nebraska.

Right of way through Fort Robinson Military Reservation, Nebr., granted to Fremont, Elk Horn and Missouri Valley Railroad Company.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Fremont, Elk Horn and Missouri Valley Railroad Company, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, are hereby granted the right of way, one hundred feet in width, for their said railroad, across and through the Fort Robinson Military Reservation, located in said State of Nebraska, not to interfere with any buildings or improvements thereon, and the location thereof to be subject to the approval of the Secretary of War.

Approved, January 20th, 1885.

Jan. 21, 1885.

CHAP. 29.—An act to authorize the Secretary of War to relinquish and turn over to the Interior Department certain parts of the Camp Douglas Military Reservation, in the Territory of Utah.

Camp Douglas Military Reservation, Utah.

Certain parts restored to public domain.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and is hereby, authorized to relinquish and turn over to the Department of the Interior, for restoration to the public domain, such parts of what is known as the Camp Douglas Military Reservation, in the Territory of Utah, as are embraced in the claim of Mr. Charles Popper; the same being in accordance with the recommendations of the board of officers comprised of I. N. Palmer, colonel Second Cavalry, president of the board; F. F. Flint, colonel Fourth Cavalry; and George O. Weber, first lieutenant Fourth Infantry, recorder, constituted for the purpose of examining the claim of the said Charles Popper by order of Brigadier