

the railroads leading to said bridge; and the United States shall have the right of way across said bridge for a postal telegraph.

SEC. 3. That said bridge shall always be provided with a suitable draw, which shall be maintained by said railroad company, and at its expense, so as not to interfere with the navigation of said river, and in such way as to render navigation through the same free, easy, and unobstructed.

SEC. 4. That the draw provided for the said bridge shall be opened promptly, upon reasonable signal, for the passing of boats and rafts; and said railroad company shall maintain, at its own expense, from sunset until sunrise, such lights or other signals on said bridge as the Light-House Board shall prescribe.

SEC. 5. That said bridge shall be under and subject to such regulations for the security of the navigation of said river as the Secretary of War shall prescribe, and the present plan and structure of said bridge shall not be altered or changed except by consent of the Secretary of War, and with his approval of the proposed change or alteration: *Provided*, That any change or alteration in the said bridge which the Secretary of War may deem necessary in the interest of navigation shall be made by the said railroad company at its own expense. And if, after thirty days' notice from the Secretary of War to the president of the railroad company, or to other parties owning or controlling said bridge, the changes or alterations required shall not be made, the Secretary may cause such changes to be made, and the cost thereof shall be recovered by suit in the name of the United States against said company in the circuit court of the United States within whose jurisdiction said bridge or any part thereof is situated.

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 over the approaches thereto, upon payment of a reasonable compensation for such use; and in case the owner or owners of said bridge and the several railroad companies, or any one of them, desiring such use, shall fail to agree upon the sum or sums to be paid, and upon rules and conditions to which each shall conform in using said bridge, all matters at issue between them shall be decided by the Secretary of War, upon a hearing of the allegations and proofs of the parties.

SEC. 7. That this Act shall be null and void if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized be not commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date of approval thereof.

SEC. 8. That Congress reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act at any time.

Approved, January 20, 1897.

CHAP. 70.—An Act To validate the appointments, acts, and services of certain deputy United States marshals in the Indian Territory, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the appointments of deputy United States marshals in the Indian Territory made by the marshal in either district of said Territory since the first day of March, eighteen hundred and ninety-five, and prior to April fifteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-six, and all oaths taken by such deputy United States marshals in good faith, and all acts and services rendered by such deputy United States marshals in pursuance of law and in good faith, are hereby ratified and validated. All accounts for the payment of such deputy United States marshals shall be subject to the approval of the Attorney-General.

SEC. 2 That hereafter United States marshals in said Territory shall give bond, with two or more sureties to be approved by the judge of said district, in the sum of twenty thousand dollars, conditioned as by

Postal telegraph.

Unobstructed navigation.

Opening draw.

Lights.

Secretary of War to approve changes, etc.

Provided.
Changes.

Use by other companies.

Compensation.

Commencement and completion.

Amendment, etc.

January 20, 1897.

Indian Territory.
Appointments and acts of deputy marshals ratified.

Accounts.

Marshals' bonds.

Proviso.
Increased bonds.

law required in regard to the bond of other United States marshals: *Provided*, That whenever the business of the courts in said Territory shall make it necessary, in the opinion of the Attorney-General, for the United States marshal of any district therein to furnish greater security than the official bond herein required, a bond in the sum not exceeding fifty thousand dollars shall be given by said marshal when required by the Attorney-General, who shall fix the amount thereof.

Approved, January 20, 1897.

January 21, 1897.

CHAP. 83.—An Act Construing the Acts of Congress in relation to the award of life-saving medals.

Preamble.

Whereas the Attorney-General, under date of January thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-five, has rendered an opinion that the statutes authorizing the award of life-saving medals apply to the rescue of those persons only who, in the vicinity of a life-saving station, life-boat station, or house of refuge, are in danger of drowning in any of the waters over which the United States, by reason of their right to regulate foreign and interstate commerce, have jurisdiction, and that the purpose of such statutes is to cause such medals to be bestowed upon the members, whether regular or volunteer, and whether permanent or temporary, of the life-saving crews; and that the terms "succoring the shipwrecked" and "saving persons from drowning," employed in section twelve, Act approved June eighteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, authorizing the bestowal of life-saving medals of the second class, were intended to embrace only those persons who were suffering from the perils of the sea, either by actual shipwreck or from being upon or connected with any vessel in distress: Therefore,

Vol. 20, p. 165.

Life-saving medals.
May be bestowed for
rescuing any person
from drowning or ship-
wreck.
Vol. 18, p. 127; Vol.
20, p. 165, Vol. 22, p. 57.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That so much of the Acts relating to life-saving stations and the Life-Saving Service approved June twentieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, June eighteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, and May fourth, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, as provide for the award of life-saving medals shall be construed so as to empower the Secretary of the Treasury to bestow such medals upon persons making signal exertions in rescuing and succoring the shipwrecked and saving persons from drowning in the waters over which the United States has jurisdiction, whether the said persons making such exertions were or were not members of a life-saving crew, or whether or not such exertions were made in the vicinity of a life-saving station.

Approved, January 21, 1897.

January 22, 1897.

CHAP. 86.—An Act To authorize the Secretary of the Navy to furnish condemned cannon to Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Condemned cannon.
Donated Fort
Thomas, Ky.

Proviso.
Condition.

Be it enacted 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 is hereby, authorized and directed to furnish to Fort Thomas, Kentucky, ten pieces of condemned cannon for ornamental purposes: *Provided*, That in the judgment of the Secretary of the Navy such articles can be spared without detriment to the public interests.

Received by the President, January 12, 1897.

[NOTE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—The foregoing act having been presented to the President of the United States for his approval, and not having been returned by him to the house of Congress in which it originated within the time prescribed by the Constitution of the United States, has become a law without his approval.]