

appropriation for public printing and binding for the Navy Department for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety six.

Approved, March 20, 1896.

March 23, 1896.

**CHAP. 66.**—An Act To repeal section six of an Act entitled "An Act to define the duties of pension agents, to prescribe the manner of paying pensions, and for other purposes," approved July eighth, eighteen hundred and seventy, and now being section forty-seven hundred and eighty-four, Revised Statutes of the United States.

Pensions.  
Taking affidavits,  
etc., by pension  
agents abolished.

R. S., sec. 4784, p.  
929, repealed.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section six of an Act entitled "An Act to define the duties of pension agents, to prescribe the manner of paying pensions, and for other purposes," approved July eighth, eighteen hundred and seventy, and now being section forty-seven hundred and eighty-four, Revised Statutes of the United States, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

Approved, March 23, 1896.

March 23, 1896.

**CHAP. 67.**—An Act To authorize the construction of a bridge across the Mississippi River, in the county of Aitkin, State of Minnesota.

Aitkin County,  
Minn., may bridge  
Mississippi River.

Location.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the county of Aitkin, in the State of Minnesota, is hereby authorized and empowered to erect, establish, and maintain, or authorize the erection, establishment, and maintenance of a wagon bridge across the Mississippi River at a point suitable to the interests of navigation from a point on the northerly bank of said river on or near the boundary line between sections twenty-three and twenty-four, township forty-seven north, of range twenty-seven west of the fourth principal meridian, in said county, so as to connect with the opposite shore of said river; that said bridge shall not interfere with the free navigation of said river beyond what is necessary in order to carry into effect the rights and privileges hereby granted.

Drawbridge.

**SEC. 2.** That the bridge under this Act shall be constructed as a pivot drawbridge, with the draw over the main and at right angles to the axis of the channel: *Provided,* That the said draw shall be opened promptly on reasonable signal for the passage of boats, vessels, and other water craft whose construction shall be such as not to admit of their passage under said bridge.

*Proviso.*  
Opening draw.

Lawful structure  
and post route.

**SEC. 3.** That any bridge constructed under this Act and according to its provisions and conditions shall be a lawful structure, over which may be transmitted the mails, troops, and munitions of war of the United States free of charge; and the United States shall have the right of way for postal telegraph purposes across said bridge.

Postal telegraph.  
Secretary of War to  
approve plans, etc.

**SEC. 4.** That the structure herein authorized shall be built and located under and subject to such regulations for the security of the navigation of said river as the Secretary of War shall prescribe, and to secure that object the corporation named shall submit to the Secretary of War, for his examination and approval, a design and drawing of the bridge and a map of the location giving, for the space of one mile above and one mile below the proposed location, the topography of the banks of the river, the shore lines at high and low water, the direction and strength of the current, and the soundings, accurately showing the bed of the stream, and shall furnish such other information as shall be required for a full and satisfactory understanding of the subject; and said bridge may be commenced and built as soon as the said plans and location of the bridge are decided by the Secretary of War to be such as will not materially affect the interest of navigation; and should any change be made in the plan of said bridge during the progress of construction,

Changes.

such change shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of War; and the said structure shall at all times be so kept and managed as to offer reasonable and proper means for the passage of vessels through or under said structure; and for the safety of vessels passing at night there shall be displayed on said bridge, from the hours of sunset to sunrise, such lights as may be prescribed by the Light-House Board; and the said structure shall be changed or removed, at the cost and expense of the owners thereof, from time to time, as the Secretary of War may direct, so as to preserve the free and convenient navigation of said river; and the authority to erect and continue said bridge shall be subject to revocation and modification by law when the public good shall, in the judgment of Congress, so require, without any expense or charge to the United States.

Lights, etc.

SEC. 5. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Amendment, etc.

SEC. 6. That this Act shall be null and void if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized be not commenced within six months and completed within two years from the date thereof.

Commencement and completion.

Approved, March 23, 1896.

CHAP. 73.—An Act To regulate the issue and recording of the commissions of officers in several of the Departments.

March 23, 1896.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That hereafter the commissions of all officers under the direction and control of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of Agriculture shall be made out and recorded in the respective Departments under which they are to serve, 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.

Commissions.  
To be issued by Treasury, Navy, War, and Agriculture Departments.  
R. S., sec. 1794, p. 318, amended.  
*Proviso.*  
To be first signed by President.

Approved, March 28, 1896.

CHAP. 74.—An Act To amend section nine of an Act entitled "An Act to provide for the appointment of a sealer and assistant sealer of weights and measures in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes."

March 28, 1896.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section nine of the Act approved March second, eighteen hundred and ninety-five, entitled "An Act for the appointment of a sealer and assistant sealer of weights and measures in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes," be, and the same is hereby, amended, so as to read as follows:

District of Columbia.  
Sealer of weights and measures.  
Vol. 28, p. 812.

"SEC. 9. That no person shall use for buying or selling, or for weighing freight or express matter, any weights, measures, scales, or other instruments, unless the same shall have been examined and approved by the sealer or assistant sealer of weights and measures. The fact and the date of such examination and approval and the period for which such examination and approval shall hold good shall be certified to with the seal of the sealer of weights and measures. Such certificates shall be attached in a conspicuous place to the weights, measures, scales, or other instruments so examined and approved; and such certificate shall be valid only for such time as the Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall provide in the schedule of fees hereinafter provided for: *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall prevent at any time the examination and condemnation of any weights, measures, scales, or other instruments that may be found defective. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall prescribe the amount of tolerance to be allowed by the sealer of weights and measures, and all weights, measures, and balances that do not conform to the standards for weights

Use of unsealed weights, etc., forbidden.

Certificates of inspection.

*Proviso.*  
Examination.

Tolerance.