

—organization.

Proviso.
Electricians and
telegraph operators.

SEC. 2. The volunteer signal corps shall consist of one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, one major as disbursing officer, and such other officers and men as may be required, not exceeding one major for each army corps; and two captains, two first lieutenants, two second lieutenants, five first-class sergeants, ten sergeants, ten corporals, and thirty first-class privates to each organized division of troops: *Provided*, That two-thirds of all officers below the rank of major and a like proportion of the enlisted men shall be skilled electricians or telegraph operators.

Approved, May 18, 1898.

May 18, 1898.

CHAP. 343.—An Act Granting the Santa Fe and Grand Canyon Railroad Company right of way for railroad purposes through the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve in northern Arizona.

Santa Fe and
Grand Canyon Rail-
road granted right of
way through Grand
Canyon Forest Re-
serve.

Vol. 27, p. 1064.

Location.

Restrictions, etc.
Chap. 152, vol. 18, p.
482, made applicable.

Proviso.
Timber.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Santa Fe and Grand Canyon Railroad Company, a corporation created and existing under the laws of the Territory of Arizona, is authorized to construct and maintain a railroad over and through the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve (heretofore reserved from entry or settlement and set apart as a public reservation by Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States, by proclamation of date the twentieth day of February, eighteen hundred and ninety-three), said railroad to enter the said Grand Canyon Forest Reserve at such a point on the southern boundary of said reserve in Coconino County, Arizona, as may be found to be the most feasible for the route of said railroad, running in a northerly direction from Williams, Arizona; thence proceeding by the most practicable route through a point at or near Lombard and the Bright Angel Trail to the Indian Gardens, and from said Bright Angel Trail in an easterly direction to the Little Colorado River; also to proceed by such side tracks, extensions, switches, and spurs as may be necessary to reach the various groups of mines in said forest reserve, all in said Coconino County; said right of way being granted subject to the rules and restrictions and carrying all the rights and privileges of an Act entitled "An Act granting to railroads the right of way through the public lands of the United States," approved March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, said Act being hereby made applicable to the right of way hereby granted: *Provided*, That no timber shall be cut by said railroad company for any purpose outside of the rights of way herein granted.

Approved, May 18, 1898.

May 18, 1898.

CHAP. 344.—An Act To abolish the distinction between offered and unoffered lands; and for other purposes.

Public lands,
Distinction between
offered and unoffered
lands abolished.

Vol. 20, p. 89.

Vol. 27, p. 348.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in cases arising from and after the passage of this Act the distinction now obtaining in the statutes between offered and unoffered lands shall no longer be made in passing upon subsisting preemption claims, in disposing of the public lands under the homestead laws, and under the timber and stone law of June third, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, as extended by the Act of August fourth, eighteen hundred and ninety-two, but in all such cases hereafter arising the land in question shall be treated as unoffered, without regard to whether it may have actually been at some time offered or not.

Missouri.
Sale of lands offered
or otherwise author-
ized.

SEC. 2. That all public lands within the State of Missouri shall hereafter be subject to disposal at private sale in the manner now provided by law for the sale of lands which have been publicly offered for sale,

whether such lands have ever been offered at public sale or not: *Provided*, That the actual settlers shall have a preference right, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe.

Proviso.
Preference right of actual settlers.

Approved, May 18, 1898.

CHAP. 345.—An Act To provide assistance to the inhabitants of Cuba, and arms, munitions, and military stores to the people of the Island of Cuba, and for other purposes.

May 18, 1898.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That while serving in Cuba during the existing war, officers of the Army of the United States exercising separate commands may, by special order, cause subsistence, medical, and quartermaster's supplies to be issued to, and other aid rendered to, inhabitants of the Island of Cuba who are destitute and in imminent danger of perishing unless they receive the same.

Cuba.
Furnishing of supplies to people.

SEC. 2. That the President, and general officers commanding troops in Cuba, are hereby authorized to furnish to the Cuban people such arms, ammunition, equipments, and military stores and supplies as they may require in order to increase their effective fighting force in the existing war against Spain.

—of arms, etc.

Approved, May 18, 1898.

CHAP. 346.—An Act To provide for the increased volume of work in the Adjutant-General's Department of the Army, due to the calling out of volunteers and the increase of the Regular Army.

May 18, 1898.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint one assistant adjutant-general with the rank of colonel, and one assistant adjutant-general with the rank of major: *Provided*, That the vacancy created in the grade of colonel by this Act shall be filled by the promotion of officers now in the Adjutant-General's Department according to seniority, and that upon the mustering out of the volunteer forces and the reduction of the Regular Army to a peace basis no appointments shall be made in the Adjutant-General's Department until the number of officers in each grade in that Department shall be reduced to the number authorized by the law in force prior to the passage of this Act.

Army.
Appointment of additional assistant adjutants-general.

Proviso.
Vacancy in grade of colonel, how filled, etc.

Vol. 24, p. 434.
Vol. 28, p. 234.

Approved, May 18, 1898.

CHAP. 347.—An Act To amend the postal laws relating to use of postal cards.

May 19, 1898.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of July, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, it shall be lawful to transmit by mail, at the postage rate of a cent apiece, payable by stamps to be affixed by the sender, and under such regulations as the Postmaster-General may prescribe, written messages on private mailing cards, such cards to be sent openly in the mails, to be no larger than the size fixed by the convention of the Universal Postal Union, and to be approximately of the same form, quality, and weight as the stamped postal card now in general use in the United States.

Postal service.
Private mailing cards authorized.
Vol. 20, p. 358.

Approved, May 19, 1898.