

in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for much-needed repairs and improvements of the graveled or macadamized road leading from the city of Newbern, North Carolina, to the national cemetery near said city, the said sum of money to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War of the United States: *Provided*, That no more of the said appropriation shall be expended than is necessary to put said road in as good condition as when originally constructed for the United States.

Proviso.
Limit of expenditure.

Approved, May 14, 1900.

CHAP. 479.—An Act Providing for free homesteads on the public lands for actual and bona fide settlers, and reserving the public lands for that purpose.

May 17, 1900.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all settlers under the homestead laws of the United States upon the agricultural public lands, which have already been opened to settlement, acquired prior to the passage of this Act by treaty or agreement from the various Indian tribes, who have resided or shall hereafter reside upon the tract entered in good faith for the period required by existing law, shall be entitled to a patent for the land so entered upon the payment to the local land officers of the usual and customary fees, and no other or further charge of any kind whatsoever shall be required from such settler to entitle him to a patent for the land covered by his entry: *Provided*, That the right to commute any such entry and pay for said lands in the option of any such settler and in the time and at the prices now fixed by existing laws shall remain in full force and effect: *Provided, however*, That all sums of money so released which if not released would belong to any Indian tribe shall be paid to such Indian tribe by the United States, and that in the event that the proceeds of the annual sales of the public lands shall not be sufficient to meet the payments heretofore provided for agricultural colleges and experimental stations by an Act of Congress, approved August thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety, for the more complete endowment and support of the colleges for the benefit of agriculture and mechanic arts, established under the provisions of an Act of Congress, approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, such deficiency shall be paid by the United States: *And provided further*, That no lands shall be herein included on which the United States Government had made valuable improvements, or lands that have been sold at public auction by said Government.

Public lands.
Free homesteads for actual settlers, etc.

Provisos.
Right to commute continued.

Payments to Indian tribes.

Agricultural colleges, etc.

Vol. 26, p. 417.

Vol. 12, p. 503.

Certain lands not included.

Repeal.

SEC. 2. That all Acts or parts of Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

Approved, May 17, 1900.

CHAP. 481.—An Act To fix the terms of the district and circuit courts of the western judicial district in the State of Louisiana.

May 18, 1900.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be held semi-annually in the western judicial district in the State of Louisiana two stated sessions of the district and circuit courts at each of the following places, to wit: At Opelousas on the first Mondays of January and June; at Alexandria on the fourth Mondays of January and June; at Shreveport on the third Mondays of February and October; at Monroe on the first Mondays of April and October.

Louisiana western judicial district.
Terms of court fixed.

Approved, May 18, 1900.