March 8, 1878. CHAP. CCCXXXI. — An Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate with the Chiefs and Head-men of the Crow Tribe of Indians, for the Surrender of their Reservation or a Part thereof in the Territory of Montana.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he hereby, authorized to negotiate with the chiefs and head-men of the Crow tribe of Indians, in the Territory of Montana, for the surrender of their reservation in said Territory, or of such part thereof as may be consistent with the welfare of the said Indians; Provided, That any such negotiation shall leave the remainder of said reservation in compact form and in good locality for farming purposes, having within it a sufficiency of good land for farming and a sufficiency for water and timber; and if there is upon such reservation a locality where fishing could be valuable to the Indians, to include the same if practicable; and the Secretary shall report his action in pursuance of this act to Congress, at the next session thereof, for its confirmation or rejection.

APPROVED, March 8, 1878.

March 8, 1878. CHAP. CCCXXI. — To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate with the Creek Indians for the Cession of a Portion of their Reservation, occupied by friendly Indians.

Preamble. Whereas by the third article of the treaty concluded with the Creek Indians June fourteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, said Indians ceded to the United States, for the settlement of friendly Indians and freedmen, the west half of their entire domain, to be divided by a line running north and south; and whereas the recent survey of said line, made in conformity with the provisions of said treaty, includes within the limits of the Creek reservation, east of said line, some of the improvements made on a reservation selected on what was supposed to be the Creek ceded lands, for the Seminole tribe of Indians, which reservation is provided for in their treaty of March first, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and also some of the improvements of the Sacs and Foxes, of the Mississippi tribe of Indians, made on a reservation intended to be established in accordance with the provisions of their treaty of February eighteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven; and whereas said improvements have been made upon said lands by and for the aforesaid Indians, who have settled thereupon in good faith, in accordance with treaty stipulations; and whereas it is necessary, in order to secure these improvements to said Indians, and to insure them suitable reservations, that the lands occupied thereby should be granted to them; Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, of the United States, of America, in Congress assembled: That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he hereby is, authorized to negotiate with the aforesaid Creek Indians for the relinquishment to the United States of such portions of their country as may have been set apart in accordance with treaty stipulations, for the use of the Seminoles, and the Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi tribes of Indians, respectively, found to be east of the line separating the Creek ceded lands from the Creek reservation, and also to negotiate and arrange with said tribes for a final and permanent adjustment of their reservations; and the Secretary shall report the result to Congress.

APPROVED, March 8, 1878.
CHAP. CCCCXXII.—An Act extending the Time for the Completion of the Portage Lake and Lake Superior Ship Canal.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the time for the completion of the Portage Lake and Lake Superior ship canal be and the same is hereby extended to the first day of December, anno Domini eighteen hundred and seventy-three.

Approved, March 8, 1878.

CHAP. CCCCXXIV.—An Act to enable the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to purchase and pay for certain Improvements within the Nez Perce Indian Reservation in the Territory of Idaho.

Whereas, by the tenth article of the treaty concluded with the Nez Perce tribe of Indians, June eleventh, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, it was agreed that the tract of land then occupied by William Craig should not be considered a part of the reservation set apart for them by said treaty; except that the same should be subject to the intercourse act in common with the other lands of the reservation, in consideration of the fact that said Craig had consented to reside among them as their friend and adviser; and whereas the said Craig, and, since his death, his legal representatives, have cultivated and otherwise improved the tract of land in question; and whereas the right of personal occupancy of the same, acquired under the treaty referred to, ceased with the death of said Craig; and whereas the improvements upon said tract, as aforesaid, are required for the use of the Nez Perce tribe of Indians: Therefore

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the commissioner of Indian affairs be, and he is hereby, authorized to purchase, from the legal representatives of the said William Craig, the said improvements, at a cost not exceeding the sum of three dollars per rod for fencing and four dollars and fifty cents per acre for the plowing upon the said tract, and to pay for the same, out of any unexpended money appropriated for fulfilling treaty with the Nez Perce tribe of Indians.

Approved, March 8, 1878.

CHAP. CCCCXXV.—An Act to authorize the Construction of a Bridge across the Missouri River at or near the City of Lexington, in the State of Missouri, and to establish a Turnpike.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be lawful for any person or persons, company, or corporation, authorized by the general or special laws of Missouri, and having the consent of the Burlington and Southwestern and the Lexington and Gulf Railroad Companies, to build a bridge across the Missouri river at or near the city of Lexington, in the State of Missouri, and to lay on or over said bridge railway-tracks for the more perfect connection of any railroads that shall be constructed to the said river at or opposite said point, under the limitations and conditions hereinafter provided. 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. And in case of any litigation arising from any obstruction, or alleged obstruction, to the free navigation of said river, the cause may be tried before the district court of the United States in the district of said State in which said bridge is located.

Sec. 2. That any bridge built under the provisions of this act may, at the option of the company building the same, be built either as a pivot bridge, or draw-bridge, or with unbroken or continuous spans: Provided, That if the said bridge shall be made with unbroken and continuous spans, it shall be built across the Missouri river at or near Lexington, Missouri, and railway-tracks laid thereon.

March 3, 1878.