

of damages, or the assessment for benefits as to any parcel of land, may take an appeal to said court of appeals, and shall be entitled to a bill of exceptions as in civil cases triable by jury, and said court of appeals may affirm, reverse, or modify the order or decree appealed from: *Provided*, That said court of appeals shall consider only questions of law arising on such appeal. From a final judgment of said court in special term under this Act, distributing the damages among contending claimants, any party aggrieved may in like manner take an appeal to the court of appeals, which court in such cases shall consider both questions of law and fact. Any appeal under this Act to the court of appeals shall be taken within twenty days after the making of the final order or decree appealed from, and not afterwards, and shall be subject to the laws and rules of court regulating appeals to said court of appeals. Cases arising under this Act shall have precedence in said court over all other cases, except criminal cases, and the decision of said court of appeals upon any question arising under this Act shall be final: *Provided*, That from any judgment or order of said court of appeals involving any question as to the constitutionality of this Act or of any part thereof, any party aggrieved may, within thirty days after such judgment or order shall be entered, appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States. Said court shall determine only the questions of constitutionality involved in the case, and shall have power to make such special rules and regulations applying to appeals under this Act as may be proper to bring such cases to a speedy hearing and determination.

*Provisos.*  
Limitation.  
Appeals from final judgments.

Appeals to Supreme Court.

Jurisdiction.

Approved, January 21, 1896.

**CHAP. 6.**—An Act For improving Aransas Pass.

January 21, 1896.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the time within which the Aransas Pass Harbor Company was required, by an Act entitled "An Act to amend an Act of Congress, approved May twelfth, eighteen hundred and ninety, granting to the Aransas Pass Harbor Company the right to improve Aransas Pass," to obtain the navigable depth of twenty feet over the outer bar therein mentioned is hereby extended until January twenty-second, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine.

Aransas Pass Harbor.  
Time for completing work extended.  
Vol. 26, p. 106; Vol. 28, p. 28.

Approved, January 21, 1896.

**CHAP. 7.**—An Act To provide an American register for the steamer Miami.

January 22, 1896.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Commissioner of Navigation is hereby authorized and directed to cause the foreign-built steamer Nerito, owned by Charles W. Hogan, a citizen of the United States, to be registered as a vessel of the United States under the name of Miami.

"Nerito."  
American register granted, and name changed to "Miami."

**SEC. 2.** That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to cause the inspection of said vessel, steam boilers, steam pipes, and their appurtenances, and cause to be granted the usual certificate issued to steam vessels of the merchant marine without reference to the fact that said steam boilers, steam pipes, and appurtenances were not constructed pursuant to the laws of the United States, and were not constructed of iron stamped pursuant to said laws; and the tests in the inspection of said boilers, steam pipes, and appurtenances shall be the same in all respects as to strength and safety as are required in the inspection of boilers constructed in the United States for marine purposes.

Inspection.

Approved, January 22, 1896.

January 23, 1896.

**CHAP. 8.**—An Act To amend an Act entitled "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to forfeit certain lands heretofore granted for the purpose of aiding in the construction of railroads, and for other purposes,' approved September twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and ninety, and the several Acts amendatory thereof."

Forfeited land grants.  
Vol. 26, p. 496.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to forfeit certain lands heretofore granted for the purpose of aiding in the construction of railroads, and for other purposes,' approved September twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and ninety, and the several Acts amendatory thereof," approved December twelfth, eighteen hundred and ninety-three, be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

Right of settlers to purchase extended.  
Vol. 27, pp. 59, 427.  
Vol. 28, p. 15.  
Post, p. 535.

"That section three of an Act entitled 'An Act to forfeit certain lands heretofore granted for the purpose of aiding in the construction of railroads, and for other purposes,' approved September twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and ninety, and the several Acts amendatory thereof, be, and the same is, amended so as to extend the time within which persons entitled to purchase lands forfeited by said Act shall be permitted to purchase the same, in the quantities and upon the terms provided in said section, at any time prior to January first, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven: *Provided*, That actual residence upon the lands by persons claiming the right to purchase the same shall not be required where such lands have been fenced, cultivated, or otherwise improved by such claimants, and such persons shall be permitted to purchase two or more tracts of such lands by legal subdivisions, whether contiguous or not, but not exceeding three hundred and twenty acres in the aggregate."

Proviso.  
Actual residence not required.

Limit to purchases.

Approved, January 23, 1896.

February 5, 1896.

**CHAP. 9.**—An Act To reconvene the delegates of the United States to the International Marine Conference of eighteen hundred and eighty-nine.

International Marine Conference to prevent collisions at sea.  
Reconvening authorized.  
Vol. 25, p. 243.  
Post, p. 381.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of State is hereby authorized to reconvene the delegates of the United States to the Washington International Marine Conference of eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, whenever in his judgment it is expedient, for the further consideration of rules to prevent collisions at sea and in the waters of the United States.

Appropriation.

SEC. 2. That the sum of two thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, for necessary expenses incurred under this Act.

Report of expenses.

SEC. 3. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to transmit to Congress a detailed statement of expenditures incurred under this Act.

Approved, February 5, 1896.

February 7, 1896.

**CHAP. 10.**—An Act To incorporate the Post Graduate School of Medicine of the District of Columbia.

District of Columbia.  
Post Graduate School of Medicine incorporated.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Henry L. E. Johnson, Edmund L. Tompkins, J. Foster Scott, William W. Johnston, Samuel C. Busey, Charles W. Richardson, James Kerr, Middleton F. Cuthbert, Edward M. Parker, G. Wythe Cook, G. Byrd Harrison, Samuel S.