

built under the provisions of this Act shall be at right angles to the current of the river at high water.

SEC. 3. That no bridge shall be erected or maintained under the authority of this Act which shall at any time substantially or materially obstruct the free navigation of said river; and the said company shall submit to the Secretary of War for his approval drawings showing the plan and location of said bridge, and until the said plan and location of the bridge are decided by the Secretary of War to be such as will not materially affect the interests of navigation and are approved by him the bridge shall not be commenced or built; and any change in the plan of such construction or any alteration in the bridge after its construction shall be subject to the like approval; and whenever said bridge shall, in the opinion of the Secretary of War, substantially obstruct the free navigation of said river, he is hereby authorized to cause such change or alteration of said bridge to be made as will effectually obviate such obstruction; and all such alterations shall be made and all such obstructions be removed at the expense of the owner or owners of said bridge, or the persons operating or controlling the same; and in case of any litigation arising from any obstruction or alleged obstruction to the free navigation of the Missouri River, at or near the crossing of said bridge, caused or alleged to be caused thereby, the cause shall be commenced and tried in the circuit courts of the United States of either judicial district of South Dakota in which the said bridge or any portion of such obstruction touches.

Secretary of War to approve plans, etc.

Changes.

Litigation.

SEC. 4. That any bridge built under this Act and according to its limitations shall be a lawful structure, and shall be recognized and known as a post route, upon which also no higher charge shall be made for the transportation over the same of the mails, the troops, and the munitions of war of the United States than the rate per mile paid for the transportation over the railroad or public highways leading to such bridge. The United States shall also have the right to construct, without charge therefor, telegraph or telephone lines across said bridge.

Lawful structure and post route.

SEC. 5. That Congress may at any time alter, amend, or repeal this Act.

Amendment, etc.

SEC. 6. That this Act shall be null and void if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized be not commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date hereof.

Commencement and completion.

Approved, March 13, 1896.

CHAP. 54.—An Act Regulating proof of death in certain Pension cases.

March 13, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in considering claims filed under the pension laws, the death of an enlisted man or officer shall be considered as sufficiently proved if satisfactory evidence is produced establishing the fact of the continued and unexplained absence of such enlisted man or officer from his home and family for a period of seven years, during which period no intelligence of his existence shall have been received. And any pension granted under this Act shall cease upon proof that such officer or enlisted man is still living.

Pensions. Proof of death accepted.

Approved, March 13, 1896.

CHAP. 55.—An Act Granting to the First Regiment North Carolina State Guard two condemned cannon.

March 13, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to deliver to the First Regiment North Carolina State Guard two pieces of condemned cannon: Provided, That the same can be spared without detriment to the service, and that no expense is thereby incurred by the Government.

Condemned cannon. Donated to First Regiment North Carolina State Guard.

Proviso. Expense etc.

Approved, March 13, 1896.

March 13, 1896.

CHAP. 56.—An Act To incorporate the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree of Scottish Rite Masonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States.

District of Columbia,
Supreme Council of
the Thirty-Third De-
gree of Scottish Rite
Masonry for the
Southern Jurisdiction
of the United States
incorporated.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Thomas Hubbard Caswell, of the city of San Francisco, State of California; Odell Squier Long, of the city of Charleston, State of West Virginia; Erasmus Theodore Carr, of Miles City, State of Montana; Frederick Webber, of the city of Washington, District of Columbia; Gilmer Meredith, of the city of Baltimore, State of Maryland, and Samuel Emery Adams, of the city of Minneapolis, State of Minnesota, officers and members of the supreme council of the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree of Scottish Rite Masonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, and their successors, be, and they are hereby, incorporated and made a body politic and corporate in the District of Columbia by the name of "The Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General Knights Commanders of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty-Third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America;" and by that name it may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any court of law or equity, and may have and use a common seal, and change the same at pleasure, and be entitled to use and exercise all the powers, rights, and privileges incidental to fraternal and benevolent corporations within the District of Columbia.

Property powers.

SEC. 2. That the said corporation shall have the power to take and hold personal estate and such real estate as shall be necessary and proper for the promotion of the fraternal and benevolent purposes of said corporation, which shall not be divided among the members of the corporation, but shall descend to their successors for the promotion of the objects aforesaid.

Claims, etc.

SEC. 3. That all claims, accounts, debts, things in action, or other matters of business of whatever nature now existing for or against the present supreme council mentioned in section one of this Act, shall survive and succeed to and against the body corporate and politic hereby created: *Provided,* That nothing contained herein shall be construed to extend the operation of any law which provides for the extinguishing of claims or contracts by limitations of time.

Proviso.
Limitations not af-
fected.

Constitution, etc.

SEC. 4. That said corporation shall have a constitution and regulations or by-laws, and shall have power to amend the same at pleasure: *Provided,* That such constitution and regulations or by-laws or amendments thereof do not conflict with the laws of the United States or of any State.

Proviso.
Not to conflict with
laws.

Purposes.

SEC. 5. That said corporation shall not engage in any business for gain, the purposes of said corporation being fraternal and benevolent.

Approved, March 13, 1896.

March 16, 1896.

CHAP. 57.—An Act To incorporate the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the diocese of Washington.

Preamble.

Whereas it has been represented to the Congress of the United States by a committee, appointed by the primary convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the diocese of Washington, whereof the Reverend John H. Elliott, Doctor of Divinity, was president, and Reverend Arthur S. Johns was secretary, convened in the city of Washington on the fourth day of December, anno Domini eighteen hundred and ninety-five, which diocese comprises the District of Columbia, together with the counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, and Saint Mary's, in the State of Maryland, and the convention whereof is composed of clergymen of said church canonically resident within said diocese and entitled to seats in said convention, and laymen duly chosen to represent the parishes and congregations in said diocese, and, as