

CHAP. 149.—An act to provide for deducting any debt due the United States from any judgment recovered against the United States by such debtor.

March 3, 1875.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when any final judgment recovered against the United States or other claim duly allowed by legal authority, shall be presented to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment, and the plaintiff or claimant therein shall be indebted to the United States in any manner, whether as principal or surety, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to withhold payment of an amount of such judgment or claim equal to the debt thus due to the United States; and if such plaintiff or claimant assents to such set off, and discharges his judgment or an amount thereof equal to said debt or claim, the Secretary shall execute a discharge of the debt due from the plaintiff to the United States. But if such plaintiff, or claimant, denies his indebtedness to the United States, or refuses to consent to the set-off, then the Secretary shall withhold payment of such further amount of such judgment, or claim, as in his opinion will be sufficient to cover all legal charges and costs in prosecuting the debt of the United States to final judgment. And if such debt is not already in suit, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to cause legal proceedings to be immediately commenced to enforce the same, and to cause the same to be prosecuted to final judgment with all reasonable dispatch. And if in such action judgment shall be rendered against the United States, or the amount recovered for debt and costs shall be less than the amount so withheld as before provided, the balance shall then be paid over to such plaintiff by such Secretary with six per cent interest, thereon for the time it has been withheld from the plaintiff.

Amount of debt due U.S. to be withheld by Secretary of Treasury in paying judgments, &c., of debtor against U. S.

Secretary to execute discharge, when.

Additional amount to be withheld when claimant denies debt.

Duty of Secretary to sue on debt.

Balance, how paid to claimant when judgment against U. S., or for less sum than withheld.

Approved, March 3, 1875.

CHAP. 150.—An act to make East Pascagoula, in the State of Mississippi, a port of delivery in the District of Pearl River.

March 3, 1875.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act East Pascagoula, in the State of Mississippi, in the district of Pearl River, shall be a port of delivery for said district.

East Pascagoula to be port of delivery.

Approved, March 3, 1875.

CHAP. 151.—An act to protect ornamental and other trees on Government reservations and on lands purchased by the United States, and for other purposes.

March 3, 1875.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That if any person or persons shall knowingly and unlawfully cut, or shall knowingly aid, assist, or be employed in unlawfully cutting, or shall wantonly destroy or injure, or procure to be wantonly destroyed or injured, any timber-tree or any shade or ornamental tree, or any other kind of tree, standing, growing, or being upon any lands of the United States, which, in pursuance of law, have been reserved, or which have been purchased by the United States for any public use, every such person or persons so offending, on conviction thereof before any circuit or district court of the United States, shall, for every such offense, pay a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or shall be imprisoned not exceeding twelve months.

Cutting or injuring trees on lands of U. S. reserved or purchased for public use.

Punishment.

SEC. 2. That if any person or persons shall knowingly and unlawfully break or destroy any fence, wall, hedge, or gate inclosing any lands of the United States, which have, in pursuance of any law, been reserved or purchased by the United States for any public use, every such person so offending, on conviction, shall, for every such offense, pay a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not exceeding six months.

Breaking fences, &c., inclosing lands of U. S. reserved or purchased for public use.

Punishment.