

# PUBLIC ACTS OF THE FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS

OF THE

## UNITED STATES,

*Passed at the First Session, which was begun and held at the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia, on Thursday, the fourth day of March, A. D. 1869, and was adjourned without day on Saturday, the tenth day of April, A. D. 1869.*

ULYSSES S. GRANT, President. SCHUYLER COLFAX, Vice-President and President of the Senate. HENRY B. ANTHONY was chosen President of the Senate, *pro tempore*, on the twenty-third day of March, A. D. 1869, and so acted until the twenty-ninth day of said March; was again chosen, on the ninth day of April, A. D. 1869, and so acted until the end of the session. JAMES G. BLAINE, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### CHAP. I. — *An Act to strengthen the public Credit.*

March 18, 1869.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That in order to remove any doubt as to the purpose of the government to discharge all just obligations to the public creditors, and to settle conflicting questions and interpretations of the laws by virtue of which such obligations have been contracted, it is hereby provided and declared that the faith of the United States is solemnly pledged to the payment in coin or its equivalent of all the obligations of the United States not bearing interest, known as United States notes, and of all the interest-bearing obligations of the United States, except in cases where the law authorizing the issue of any such obligation has expressly provided that the same may be paid in lawful money or other currency than gold and silver. But none of said interest-bearing obligations not already due shall be redeemed or paid before maturity unless at such time United States notes shall be convertible into coin at the option of the holder, or unless at such time bonds of the United States bearing a lower rate of interest than the bonds to be redeemed can be sold at par in coin. And the United States also solemnly pledges its faith to make provision at the earliest practicable period for the redemption of the United States notes in coin.*

APPROVED, March 18, 1869.

The faith of the United States pledged to the payment in coin, or its equivalent, of all obligations of the United States, &c. except, &c.

Interest-bearing obligations not already due, not to be paid before maturity, unless, &c.

Redemption of the United States notes in coin.

CHAP. II. — *An Act supplementary to an Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Extension, Construction, and Use of a lateral Branch of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad into and within the District of Columbia," approved February 5, 1867.*

March 18, 1869.  
1867, ch. 29.  
Vol. xiv. p. 387.  
1870, ch. 32, 142.  
Post, pp. 78, 161.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company, which, by the act of Congress entitled "An act to authorize the extension, construction, and use of a lateral branch of the Baltimore and Potomac railroad into and within the District of Columbia," was authorized to extend into and construct within the District of*

Baltimore and Potomac R. R. Co. may enter Washington, &c. by either of two routes.