or cribs in front of their mill property on the banks of said river, for the
protection of their mills and rafts against damage by floods and ice;
Provided however, That the piers or cribs so constructed shall not inter-
fere with or obstruct the navigation of said river: Provided further, That
in case by reason of the shifting of the channel of the said river, or from
any other cause, the piers or cribs, the construction of which are autho-
rized by this act shall be found to obstruct the navigation of said river
at any time, the government expressly reserves the right to remove, or
direct the removal of any such piers or cribs at the cost and expense of
the owners thereof.

APPROVED, March 3, 1873.

CHAP. CCLXXIX. — An Act to provide for the Sale of the Lands of the United States
containing Coal.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled, That any person above the age
of twenty-one years, who is a citizen of the United States, or who has
declared his intention to become such, or any association of persons sev-
eral qualified as above, shall, upon application to the register of the
proper land-office, have the right to enter, by legal subdivisions, any
quantity of vacant coal lands of the United States not otherwise appro-
priated or reserved by competent authority, not exceeding one hundred
and sixty acres to such individual person, or three hundred and twenty
acres to such association, upon payment to the receiver of not less than
ten dollars per acre for such lands, where the same shall be situated
more than fifteen miles from any completed railroad, and not less than
twenty dollars per acre for such lands as shall be within fifteen miles of
such road.

Section 2. That any person or association of persons severally qualified
as above, who have opened and improved, or shall hereafter open and
improve, any coal mine or mines upon the public lands, and shall be in
actual possession of the same, shall be entitled to a preference right of
entry, under the foregoing provisions, of the mines so opened and im-
proved: Provided, That when any association of not less than four per-
sons, severally qualified as in section one of this act, shall have expended
not less than five thousand dollars in working and improving any such
mine or mines, such association may enter not exceeding six hundred and
forty acres, including such mining improvements.

Section 3. That all claims under section two of this act must be presented
to the register of the proper land-district within sixty days after the date
of actual possession and the commencement of improvements on the land,
by the filing of a declaratory statement therefor: Provided, That when the
township plat is not on file at the date of such improvement, filing must
be made within sixty days from the receipt of such plat at the district
office; And provided further, That where the improvements shall have
been made prior to the expiration of three months from the passage of
this act, sixty days from the expiration of said three months shall be
allowed for the filing of a declaratory statement, and no sale under the
provisions of this act shall be allowed until the expiration of six months
from the date hereof.

Section 4. That this act shall be held to authorize only one entry by the
same person or association of persons under its provisions; and no associa-
tion of persons, any member of which shall have taken the benefit of this
act either as an individual or as a member of any other association shall
enter or hold any other lands under the provisions of this act; and no
member of any association which shall have taken the benefit of this act
shall enter or hold any other lands under its provisions; and all persons
claiming under section two hereof, shall be required to prove their respec-
tive rights and pay for the lands filed upon within one year from the time

APPROVED, March 3, 1873.
within a year
from, &c.

In case of con-
flicting claims,
priority of pos-
session, &c., to
determine.
Where im-
provements are
already made.

Existing rights
not impaired.

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prescribed for filing their respective claims; and upon failure to file the
proper notice, or to pay for the land within the required period, the same
shall be subject to entry by any other qualified applicant.

SECTION 5. That in case of conflicting claims upon lands where the
improvements shall be hereafter commenced, priority of possession and improve-
ment, followed by proper filing and continued good faith, shall determine
the preference right to purchase. And also where improvements have
already been made at the date of the passage of this act, division of the
land claimed may be made by legal subdivisions, to include, as near as may
be, the valuable improvements of the respective parties; and the commis-
sioner of the general land-office shall be, and is hereby, authorized to issue
all needful rules and regulations for carrying into effect the provisions of
this act.

SECTION 6. That nothing in this act shall be construed to destroy or impair
any rights which may have attached prior to its passage, or to authorize
the sale of lands valuable for mines of gold, silver, or copper.

APPROVED, March 3, 1873.

CHAP. CCLXXX. — An Act for the Relief of Howard F. Moffat.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United
States be, and he is hereby, authorized to nominate, and by and with the
advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint, upon the retired list of the
navy, with the rank of master, Howard F. Moffat, now a volunteer officer
on the active list of the navy.

APPROVED, March 3, 1873.

CHAP. CCLXXXI. — An Act to extend the Time for filing Claims for additional Bounty under
the Act of July twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled, That the time for filing claims
for additional bounty, under the act of July twenty-eighth, eighteen hun-
dred and sixty-six, and which expired by limitation January thirtieth,
eighteen hundred and seventy-three, be, and the same is hereby, revived
and extended until the thirtieth day of January, eighteen hundred and
seventy-four; and that all claims for such bounties filed in the proper
department after the thirtieth day of January, eighteen hundred and
seventy-three, and before the passage of this act, shall be deemed to have
been filed in due time, and shall be considered and decided without
filing.

APPROVED, March 3, 1873.

CHAP. CCLXXXII. — An Act to authorize and direct the Secretary of War to distribute
Arms and military Equipments under the Act of April twenty-third, eighteen hundred and eight,
and the Acts amendatory thereof.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be,
and he is hereby, authorized and directed to distribute to certain States
arms and military equipments made from the year eighteen hundred and sixty-two
to the year eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, receive the same, their proper quota of arms and
military equipments for each year, from eighteen hundred and sixty-two to
eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, under the act of Congress approved
April twenty-third, eighteen hundred and eight, and the several acts
amendatory thereof: Provided, That in the organization and equipment of
military companies and organizations with said arms, no discrimination
shall be made between said companies and organizations on account of
race, color, or former condition of servitude.

APPROVED, March 3, 1873.