

SEC 7. This act shall take effect on and after the first day of July, anno Domini eighteen hundred and seventy-eight. Date of effect.
 Approved, June 19, 1878.

CHAP. 317.—An act to protect public libraries in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes June 19, 1878.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who shall steal, wrongfully deface, injure, mutilate, tear, or destroy any book, pamphlet, or manuscript, or any portion thereof, belonging to the Library of Congress, or to any public library in the District of Columbia, whether the property of the United States or of any individual or corporation in said District, or who shall steal, wrongfully deface, injure, mutilate, tear, or destroy any book, pamphlet, document, manuscript, print, engraving, medal, newspaper, or work of art, the property of the United States, shall be held guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall, when the offense is not otherwise punishable by some statute of the United States, be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, and by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than twelve months, or both, for every such offense.

Public libraries, District of Columbia.

Stealing, etc., books of.

Penalty.

Approved, June 19, 1878.

CHAP. 318.—An act to amend section twenty-nine hundred and thirty-one of the Revised Statutes of the United States so as to allow repayment by the Secretary of the Treasury of the tonnage-tax where it has been exacted in contravention of treaty provisions June 19, 1878.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of section twenty-nine hundred and thirty-one, of chapter six, title thirty-four, of the Revised Statutes, shall not apply to cases of the payment of tonnage-tax on vessels where the Secretary of the Treasury and Attorney-General shall be satisfied that the exaction of such tax was in contravention of treaty provisions; and he may draw his warrant for the refund of the tax so illegally exacted, as is provided in section three thousand twelve and one half of said statutes: *Provided,* That this act shall not be construed to authorize the refunding of any tonnage-duties whatever exacted prior to the first day of June eighteen hundred and sixty-two, nor shall it apply to cases of the payment of tonnage-tax heretofore made on vessels other than those of the Hanseatic Republics and Sweden and Norway.

Refund of tonnage-dues.
 R. S. 2931, p. 570.
 R. S. 3012½, p. 583.

Proviso.

Approved, June 19, 1878.

CHAP. 319.—An act supplementary to the act entitled "An act to carry into effect the convention between the United States and China concluded on the eighth day of November, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, at Shanghai", approved March third eighteen hundred and fifty-nine and to give the Court of Claims jurisdiction in certain cases June 19, 1878.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person or persons, or body corporate holding and making any claim upon the balance of the fund usually designated and known as "the Chinese indemnity fund", under the control of the Department of State of the United States and now unappropriated, for loss sustained by the plunder and destruction, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-four, of the bark Caldera, and property on board of said vessel, may, at any time within twelve months after the passage of this act commence proceedings in the United States Court of Claims against the United States, in the same manner as other suits are brought, pursuant to and in virtue of the statutes of the United

Bark "Caldera." Claims for loss, etc., on, referred to Court of Claims. 1859, ch. 77, 11 Stat., 403.

States and the rules of said court; and that the said Court of Claims shall have full jurisdiction to hear and determine such claim or demand, according to the principles of justice and international law.

Proceedings in
the cause.

SEC. 2. That at the hearing or on the trial of any suit so commenced, either party, plaintiff or defendant, shall have the right to use before the court any testimony or documents which may be relevant to, and competent upon, the issues joined between the parties; and that the proceedings, trial, decision, and judgment of the said court shall be had in the same manner as in all other cases before the said Court of Claims, and have the same effect; and that either party, plaintiff or defendant may appeal from the decision or judgment of the said Court of Claims to the Supreme Court of the United States in the same manner as now provided for in other cases: *Provided, however,* That if any final judgment be found in favor of a claimant or plaintiff, the same shall only be paid and satisfied out of the balance of said Chinese indemnity fund; and if said judgment shall be in favor of the defendant, then such claimants shall be forever barred in law and equity from hereafter making any claim upon or against said fund.

Judgment.

Approved, June 19, 1878.

June 19, 1878.

CHAP. 320.—An act to authorize the claimants to certain lands in Santa Barbara County, California, to submit their claim to the United States district court for that State for adjudication.

Rancho Las Cruces.

Claimants may proceed in district court of California.

Limits of confirmation.

Preliminary releases.

App. al.

Law governing case.
1851, ch. 41,
9 Stat., 631.

Survey on filing final decree.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the claimants to lands situated in Santa Barbara County, California, known as the Rancho Las Cruces, who retrain title through the original Mexican grantee of said rancho, are hereby permitted and authorized to present their claim to said lands to the district court of the United States for the district of California for examination; and if, upon the hearing of said case, it shall appear to said court that the claim of the original grantee was good and valid under Mexican laws relating to such cases, the said court shall by decree confirm said claim: *Provided,* That no lands shall be confirmed to said claimants by said decree exceeding in area eight thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight acres, nor any lands to which there are any valid claims existing under the pre-emption or homestead laws of the United States at the date of the passage of this act; nor shall any decree of confirmation affect any valid adverse right of any other person or persons, or give to the confirtees, or any of them, any claim upon the United States for compensation for any land such confirtees may lose by reason of pre-emption or homestead claims or adverse rights as aforesaid: *Provided further,* that said claimants, before filing their claim shall execute releases to any persons who may be in possession of any portion of said lands under valid claims under the pre-emption, homestead, or other laws of the United States at the date of the passage of this act, to the portions of said lands so held respectively; and before rendering a decree of confirmation, the said court shall ascertain that said releases have been duly executed.

SEC. 2. That in case said claim is rejected by said court then said claimants are hereby granted the right of appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, within the time and in the manner now provided by law in like cases. The said courts in the examination of the claims presented by any person under this act, shall be governed, so far as applicable, by the provisions of the act passed March third anno Domini eighteen hundred and fifty-one, entitled "An act to ascertain and settle private land claims in the State of California."

SEC. 3. That the United States surveyor-general for California is hereby directed, upon the filing in his office by said claimants of a certified copy of a final decree of confirmation, under the provisions of this act, to cause said claim to be surveyed as other claims of like nature are