

CHAP. 23.—An act to provide that all pensions on account of death, or wounds received, or disease contracted in the service of the United States during the late war of the rebellion, which have been granted, or which shall hereafter be granted, shall commence from the date of death or discharge from the service of the United States; for the payment of arrears of pensions, and other purposes.

Jan. 25, 1879.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all pensions which have been granted under the general laws regulating pensions, or may hereafter be granted, in consequence of death from a cause which originated in the United States service during the continuance of the late war of the rebellion, or in consequence of wounds, injuries, or disease received or contracted in said service during said war of the rebellion, shall commence from the date of the death or discharge from said service of the person on whose account the claim has been or shall hereafter be granted, or from the termination of the right of the party having prior title to such pension: *Provided,* The rate of pension for the intervening time for which arrears of pension are hereby granted shall be the same per month for which the pension was originally granted.

Pensions.

Commencement.

Rate.

SEC. 2. That the Commissioner of Pensions is hereby authorized and directed to adopt such rules and regulations for the payment of the arrears of pensions hereby granted as will be necessary to cause to be paid to such pensioners, or, if the pensioners shall have died, to the person or persons entitled to the same, all such arrears of pension as the pensioner may be, or would have been, entitled to under this act.

Rules and regulations.

SEC. 3. That section forty-seven hundred and seventeen of the Revised Statutes of the United States, which provides that “no claim for pension not prosecuted to a successful issue within five years from the date of filing the same shall be admitted without record evidence from the War or Navy Department of the injury or the disease which resulted in the disability or death of the person on whose account the claim is made: *Provided,* That in any case in which the limitation prescribed by this section bars the further prosecution of the claim, the claimant may present, through the Pension Office, to the Adjutant-General of the Army or the Surgeon-General of the Navy, evidence that the disease or injury which resulted in the disability or death of the person on whose account the claim is made originated in the service and in the line of duty; and if such evidence is deemed satisfactory by the officer to whom it may be submitted, he shall cause a record of the fact so proved to be made, and a copy of the same to be transmitted to the Commissioner of Pensions, and the bar to the prosecution of the claim shall thereby be removed”, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

R. S. 4717.

SEC. 4. No claim agent or other person shall be entitled to receive any compensation for services in making application for arrears of pension.

No fees to claim agents.

SEC. 5. That all acts or parts of acts so far as they may conflict with the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Repeals.

Approved, January 25, 1879.

CHAP. 24.—An act to facilitate the refunding the national debt.

Jan. 25, 1879.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized in the process of refunding the national debt under existing laws to exchange directly at par the bonds of the United States bearing interest at four per centum per annum authorized by law for the bonds of the United States commonly known as five-twenties outstanding and uncalled, and, whenever all such five twenty bonds shall have been redeemed, the provisions of this section and all existing provisions of law authorizing the refunding of the national debt shall apply to any bonds of the United States bearing interest at five per centum per annum or a higher rate, which may be redeemable. In any exchange

Public debt.

Exchange of six for four per cent. bonds.

Interest.

made under the provisions of this section interest may be allowed, on the bonds redeemed, for a period of three months.

Approved, January 25, 1879.

Jan. 27, 1879.

CHAP. 25.—An act to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to examine the evidence of payments made by the State of Missouri since April seventeenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, to the officers and privates of the militia forces of said State, for military services actually performed in the suppression of the rebellion, in full concert and co-operation with the authorities of the United States, and subject to their orders, and to make report thereof to Congress.

Preamble.

Whereas it is claimed by the State of Missouri that at the time of the reimbursement of said State under and by virtue of the act of Congress entitled "An act to reimburse the State of Missouri for moneys expended for the United States in enrolling, equipping, and provisioning militia forces to aid in suppressing the rebellion", approved April seventeenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, there still remained a large amount due to the officers and privates of said militia forces, which had not then been paid by said State, and was not therefore included in said reimbursements, and that said State has since paid said amount to said officers and privates of said militia forces, and has never been reimbursed: Therefore,

Missouri.
Claim for pay-
ments to militia to
be audited.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to investigate, consider, and examine the evidence, vouchers, and records relating to the payments claimed to have been made by the State of Missouri since the seventeenth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, to the officers and privates of the militia forces of said State, for military services actually performed in the suppression of the rebellion, in full concert and co-operation with the authorities of the United States, and subject to their orders, which are now on file in his department, and which may be filed by said State, or its agent or agents, and to report to Congress at the earliest practicable time the results of such investigation and examination, and the amount or amounts, if any, which shall appear to be justly due to said State for such payments made since April seventeenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six.

Report to Con-
gress.

Approved, January 27, 1879.

Jan. 27, 1879.

CHAP. 26.—An act making appropriations for the payment of invalid and other pensions of the United States for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty.

Appropriations. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the payment of pensions for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty, and for other purposes:

Army pensions. For pensions for Army invalids, widows, minors, and dependent relatives, survivors of the war of eighteen hundred and twelve, and widows of the war of eighteen hundred and twelve, twenty-eight million four hundred thousand dollars: *Provided,* That the amount expended for each of the above items shall be accounted for separately.

Accounts.

Pension agents.

For pay and allowances for salary, fees for preparing vouchers, rent, fuel, light, and postage on official matter directed to the departments and bureaus at Washington, two hundred and twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars.

Navy pensions.

For Navy pensions to invalids, widows, and dependent relatives, five hundred and thirty-four thousand dollars: *Provided,* That the appropriations aforesaid for Navy pensions, shall be paid from the income of the