

Where vessels may enter and unload.

“Provided, That vessels arriving at a port of entry in the United States, laden with coal, salt, railroad-iron, and other like articles in bulk, may proceed to places within that collection district to be specially designated by the Secretary of the Treasury, by general regulations or otherwise, under the superintendence of customs officers, at the expense of the parties interested, for the purpose of unloading cargoes of the character before mentioned.”

SEC. 30. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed; and this act shall take effect and be in force on and after July first, eighteen hundred and eighty-four.

Approved, June 26, 1884.

June 26, 1884.

CHAP. 122.—An act to equalize the rank of graduates of the Naval Academy upon their assignment to the various corps.

Graduates of Naval Academy to be commissioned ensigns in the Navy.

Grade of junior ensigns abolished; *proriso.*

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 all graduates of the Naval Academy who are assigned to the line of the Navy, on the successful completion of the six years course, shall be commissioned ensigns in the Navy.

SEC. 2. That the grade of junior ensign in the Navy is hereby abolished and the junior ensigns now on the list shall be commissioned ensigns in the Navy: *Provided, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to increase the number of officers in the Navy now allowed by law.*

SEC. 3. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act be and the same are hereby repealed

Approved, June 26, 1884.

June 26, 1884.

CHAP. 123.—An act to provide for the administration of oaths to witnesses in matters depending in either House of Congress.

Members of Congress may administer oaths to witnesses, etc.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any member of either House of Congress may administer oaths to witnesses in any matter depending in either House of Congress of which he is a member, or any committee thereof.

Approved, June 26, 1884.

June 27, 1884.

CHAP. 126.—An act to grant letter-carriers at free-delivery offices fifteen days' leave of absence in each year.

Letter-carriers granted leave of absence with pay.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all letter-carriers at free-delivery offices shall be entitled to leave of absence, not to exceed fifteen days in each year, without loss of pay; and the Postmaster-General is hereby authorized to employ, when necessary, during the time such leave of absence is granted, such number of substitute letter-carriers as may be deemed advisable, who shall be paid for services rendered at the rate of six hundred dollars per annum.

Approved, June 27, 1884.

June 27, 1884.

CHAP. 127.—An act to establish a Bureau of Labor.

Bureau of Labor.
Commissioner.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be established in the Department of the Interior a Bureau of Labor, which shall be under the charge of a Commissioner of Labor, who shall be appointed by

the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Commissioner of Labor shall hold his office for four years, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed, and shall receive a salary of three thousand dollars a year. The Commissioner shall collect information upon the subject of labor, its relation to capital, the hours of labor, and the earnings of laboring men and women, and the means of promoting their material, social, intellectual, and moral prosperity. The Secretary of the Interior upon the recommendation of said Commissioner, shall appoint a chief clerk, who shall receive a salary of two thousand dollars per annum, and such other employees as may be necessary for the said Bureau: *Provided*, That the total expense shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars per annum. During the necessary absence of the Commissioner, or when the office shall become vacant, the chief clerk shall perform the duties of Commissioner. The Commissioner shall annually make a report in writing to the Secretary of the Interior of the information collected and collated by him, and containing such recommendations as he may deem calculated to promote the efficiency of the Bureau.

Salary.
Duties.

Chief clerk, etc.
Salary.

Proviso.

Annual report.

Approved, June 27, 1884.

CHAP. 131.—An act to repeal section one of the act entitled “An act making a grant of lands in alternate sections to aid in the construction and extension of the Iron Mountain Railroad, from Pilot Knob, in the State of Missouri, to Helena, in Arkansas,” approved July fourth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and for other purposes.

June 28, 1884.

Whereas by the first section of an act of Congress approved July the fourth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, there was granted to the State of Missouri, for the purpose of aiding in the construction and extension of the Iron Mountain Railroad, from its terminus at Pilot Knob to a point on the southern boundary-line of the State, every alternate section of land designated by odd numbers, for ten sections in width on each side of said road; and

14 Stat., 83.
Preamble.

Whereas said Iron Mountain Railroad Company, or its successor, did not comply with the terms of said act either in time or by the construction of its line in accordance with the location of its line as shown on its maps filed in the Department of the Interior or otherwise, and never became entitled to or received any of said lands: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section one of the act of Congress entitled “An act making a grant of lands in alternate sections to aid in the construction and extension of the Iron Mountain Railroad, from Pilot Knob, in the State of Missouri, to Helena, in Arkansas”, approved July fourth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, be, and hereby is repealed; and upon the acceptance by the said Iron Mountain Railroad Company, its successors or assigns, in writing, under corporate seal, within six months from the passage of this act, of the terms of this act, and upon the production to the Secretary of the Interior by said company, its successors or assigns, of satisfactory proof that said lands have not been sold or encumbered by said company, the said Iron Mountain Railroad Company, its successors or assigns, shall be forever released from any and all obligations imposed by said act of July fourth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six; and all of the lands granted by said section one be and they are hereby restored to the public domain for disposition under the public-land laws of the United States: *Provided*, That all pre-emption and homestead entries heretofore allowed upon any of said lands, not in excess of the legal quantity, be, and they are hereby, confirmed: *And provided further*, That all persons residing on any of said lands at the date of the passage of this act shall have a prior right to acquire the same, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres,

Repeal of section one of act granting lands to aid in construction of Iron Mountain Railroad.

Release of company; conditions.

Lands restored to the public domain; *proviso.*