

CHAP. 23.—An act to provide for the expenses and compensation of Special Messengers to be sent by the Secretary of State to the States respectively of Iowa and Oregon, for the certificates of the electoral vote of eighteen hundred and eighty-four, for President and Vice-President of the United States in pursuance of the provisions of section one hundred and forty-one, of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

Jan. 17, 1885.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated to pay the compensation, expenses or mileage as the case may be, of two messengers, one to the State of Iowa and one to the State of Oregon; to receive from the United States District Judge in each of said States the certificate of the electoral vote of December, eighteen hundred and eighty-four, for President and Vice-President of the United States deposited with such Judges under the provisions of section one hundred and forty, of the Revised Statutes of the United States and called for by the Secretary of State under the provisions of section one hundred and forty-one, of the Revised Statutes of the United States. The sum hereby appropriated shall be immediately available and shall be disbursed under the direction of the Secretary of State.

Approved, January 17th, 1885.

Appropriation.
Expenses.

Messengers sent for certificates of electoral votes of Iowa and Oregon for President and Vice-President of the United States, December, 1884.
1792, R. S., chap. 1, sec. 140, p. 23.
1792, R. S., chap. 1, sec. 141, p. 23.

CHAP. 25.—An act to provide for the ascertainment of claims of American citizens for spoliations committed by the French prior to the thirty-first day of July, eighteen hundred and one.

Jan. 20, 1885.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That such citizens of the United States, or their legal representatives, as had valid claims to indemnity upon the French Government arising out of illegal captures, detentions, seizures, condemnations, and confiscations prior to the ratification of the convention between the United States and the French Republic concluded on the thirtieth day of September, eighteen hundred, the ratifications of which were exchanged on the thirty-first day of July following, may apply by petition to the Court of Claims, within two years from the passage of this act, as hereinafter provided: *Provided,* That the provisions of this act shall not extend to such claims as were embraced in the convention between the United States and the French Republic concluded on the thirtieth day of April, eighteen hundred and three; nor to such claims growing out of the acts of France as were allowed and paid, in whole or in part, under the provisions of the treaty between the United States and Spain concluded on the twenty-second day of February, eighteen hundred and nineteen; nor to such claims as were allowed, in whole or in part, under the provisions of the treaty between the United States and France concluded on the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-one.

French spoliation claims.
Claimants may apply by petition within two years.

Provido.
Certain classes of claims not included.

Court to make needful rules.

SEC. 2. That the court is hereby authorized to make all needful rules and regulations, not contravening the laws of the land or the provisions of this act, for executing the provisions hereof.

SEC. 3. That the court shall examine and determine the validity and amount of all the claims included within the description above mentioned, together with their present ownership, and, if by assignee, the date of the assignment, with the consideration paid therefor: *Provided,* That in the course of their proceedings they shall receive all suitable testimony on oath or affirmation, and all other proper evidence, historic and documentary, concerning the same; and they shall decide upon the validity of said claims according to the rules of law, municipal and international, and the treaties of the United States applicable to the same, and shall report all such conclusions of fact and law as in their judgment may affect the liability of the United States therefor.

Court to determine as to validity, amount, ownership of claims, etc.

Provido as to testimony and law, and report of conclusions.