

*Proviso.*  
Lands excepted.

Drainage.

No indemnity.

District included in this act.

Swamp lands to Louisiana.

entry, under the provisions of the homestead laws only: *Provided*, That this right of entry shall not extend to any lands within the limits of eighty arpents in depth from the Mississippi River, nor to any confirmed land grants within the limits of said townships; *And provided further*, That all lands disposed of under the provisions of this act shall be subject to all existing servitudes for drainage recognized by the laws of the State of Louisiana: *And provided further*, That neither the claimants under this act as homesteaders nor the State of Louisiana shall be entitled to indemnity from the United States by reason of the passage hereof or of any action under it. That the provisions of this act shall be and are hereby extended to embrace all settlers upon public lands and for the disposition of all public lands embraced in the grant to Daniel Clark so far as decreed invalid by the Supreme Court of the United States and the unconfirmed Conway claim: *Provided*, That the provisions of this act shall be limited to the lands claimed by actual settlers for purposes of cultivation whose titles are now incomplete, within the limits of the Donaldson and Scott, Daniel Clark, and Conway grants, and that after setting apart to each of said settlers, not to exceed one hundred and sixty acres, the residue of the public lands within said grants shall continue to be, as they are now, a part of the public domain: *And provided further*, That nothing in this act shall preclude the State of Louisiana from enforcing its claim to said residue of public lands under the acts of Congress granting swamp lands to the several States of the Union.

Approved, March 2, 1889.

March 2, 1889.

**CHAP. 396.**—An act to regulate the course at the Naval Academy.

Naval Academy.  
Division of fourth class.

Course of study for line and Marine Corps.

Engineer Corps.

Appointments from graduates.

*Proviso.*  
Appointments not to exceed vacancies occurring.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Academic Board of the Naval Academy shall on or before the thirtieth day of September in each year separate the first class of naval cadets then commencing their fourth year into two divisions, as they may have shown special aptitude for the duties of the respective corps, in the proportion which the aggregate number of vacancies occurring in the preceding fiscal year ending on the thirtieth day of June in the lowest grades of commissioned officers of the line of the Navy and Marine Corps of the Navy shall bear to the number of vacancies to be supplied from the Academy occurring during the same period in the lowest grade of commissioned officers of the engineer corps of the Navy; and the cadets so assigned to the line and Marine Corps division of the first class shall thereafter pursue a course of study arranged to fit them for service in the line of the Navy, and the cadets so assigned to the Engineer Corps division of the first class shall thereafter pursue a separate course of study arranged to fit them for service in the Engineer Corps of the Navy, and the cadets shall thereafter, and until final graduation, at the end of their six years' course, take rank by merit with those in the same division, according to the merit marks; and from the final graduates of the line and Marine Corps division, at the end of their six years' course, appointments shall be made hereafter as it shall be necessary to fill vacancies in the lowest grades of commissioned officers of the line of the Navy and Marine Corps; and the vacancies in the lowest grades of the commissioned officers of the Engineer Corps of the Navy shall be filled in like manner by appointments from the final graduates of the Engineer division at the end of their six years' course: *Provided*, That no greater number of appointments into the said lowest grades of commissioned officers shall be made each year than shall equal the number of vacancies which shall have occurred in

the same grades during the fiscal year then current; such appointments to be made from the final graduates of the year, in the order of merit as determined by the Academic Board of the Naval Academy, the assignment to be made by the Secretary of the Navy upon the recommendation of the Academic Board at the conclusion of the fiscal year then current; but nothing contained herein or in the naval appropriation act of August fifth, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, shall reduce the number of appointments of final graduates at the end of their six years course below twelve in each year to the line of the Navy, and not less than two shall be appointed annually to the Engineer Corps of the Navy, nor less than one annually to the Marine Corps; and if the number of vacancies in the lowest grades aforesaid, occurring in any year shall be greater than the number of final graduates of that year, the surplus vacancies shall be filled from the final graduates of following years, as they shall become available; and it is provided that in addition to the appointments to the Engineer Corps of the Navy hereby authorized, there may also be appointed five Assistant Engineers from the graduates, in the order of merit, of the Naval Academy of the class which finished its six years' course in June eighteen hundred and eighty-six, to take rank and receive pay only from the date of their appointment; and said Engineer Corps is hereby enlarged for the purpose of the additional appointments hereby authorized.

Reduction of appointments.  
Vol. 22, p. 285.

Filling vacancies.

Five assistant engineers from class of 1886.

Age of admission.  
R. S., sec. 1517, p. 261, amended.

SEC. 2. That after the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, the minimum age of admission of cadets to the Academy shall be fifteen years and the maximum age twenty years.

Approved, March 2, 1889.

**CHAP. 397.**—An act to authorize the Natchitoches Railroad Company to construct and maintain a bridge across the Red River, in Louisiana.

March 2, 1889.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Natchitoches Railroad Company, a corporation created and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Louisiana, be, and is hereby, authorized to construct and maintain a railroad and wagon bridge across the Red River at such point as may be selected by the said railroad company in the parish of Natchitoches or in the parish of Red River, the said bridge to be so constructed as not to interfere with the navigation of said river, and to be provided with a suitable draw: *Provided,* That any bridge constructed under this act and according to its limitations shall be a lawful structure, and shall be known and recognized as a post-route, and the same is hereby declared to be a post route, upon which also no higher charge shall be made for the transmission over the same of the mails, the troops, and the munitions of war of the United States, or for through passengers or freight passing over said bridge, than the rate per mile paid for their transportation over the railroads leading to the said bridge; and equal privileges in the use of said bridge shall be granted to all telegraph companies; and the United States shall have the right of way for a postal telegraph across said bridge.

Natchitoches Railroad Company may bridge Red River, La.

Railway and wagon bridge.

Unobstructed navigation.  
Draw.

*Proviso.*  
Lawful structure and post-route.

Postal telegraph.

SEC. 2. That the bridge authorized to be constructed under this act shall be located and built under and subject to such regulations for the security of the navigation of said river as the Secretary of War shall prescribe; and to secure that object the said company or corporation shall submit to the Secretary of War, for his examination and approval, a design and drawings of the proposed bridge, and a map of the location, giving, for the space of one mile above and one mile below the proposed location, the topography of the banks of the river, the shore-lines at high and low water the direction and strength

Secretary of War to approve plans, etc.