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 recog-
nized 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 unconf-
irmed 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 sev-
eral States of the Union.

Approved, March 2, 1889.

March 2, 1889.

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

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 pro-
portion 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 ar-
ranged 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 gradu-
ates of the Engineer division at the end of their six years' course; Pro-
vided, 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 appoint-
ments 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 ap-
propriation 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 ad-
ditional appointments hereby authorized.

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 con-
struct and maintain a bridge across the Red River, in Louisiana.

be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Natchi-
toches 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 ac-
cording to its limitations shall be a lawful structure, and shall be
known an recognized as a post-route, and the same is hereby de-
clared 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 pas-
sengers 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
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 examina-
tion 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

Reduction of ap-
propriation act of August fifth, eighteen hundred and eighty-two,
Filling vacancies.

Five assistant engi-
neers from class of 1886.

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

March 2, 1889.

Natchitoches Rail-
road Company may
bridge Red River, La.
Railway and wagon
bridge.

Unobstructed navi-
gation.
Draw.
Proviso.
Lawful structure and
post-route.

Postal telegraph.

Secretary of War to
approve plans, etc.