CHAP. 501.—An Act Granting right of way through the Pikes Peak Timber Land Reserve and the public lands to the Cripple Creek District Railway Company.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Cripple Creek District Railway Company, a corporation created and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado, be, and it hereby is, authorized to construct and maintain a railway over and through the Pikes Peak Timber Land Reserve (heretofore reserved from entry or settlement and set apart as a public reservation by Executive order), said railway to enter said Pikes Peak Timber Land Reserve at such a point on the eastern or northern boundary thereof in El Paso County, Colorado, as may be found to be the most feasible for the route of said railway, running in a westerly direction from Colorado Springs, Colorado, thence proceeding by the most practicable route through the reserve to the western boundary thereof; also, to proceed by such side tracks, extensions, switches, and spurs as may be necessary to reach any groups of mines in said forest reserve, all in said El Paso County; and the said railway company is hereby also granted right of way through the public lands to the town of Cripple Creek, in the said State of Colorado; said right of way being granted subject to the rules and restrictions and carrying all the rights and privileges of an Act entitled "An Act granting to railroads the right of way through the public lands of the United States," approved March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, said Act being hereby made applicable to the right of way hereby granted: Provided, That no timber shall be cut by said railroad company for any purpose outside of the rights of way herein granted.

Approved, June 27, 1898.

CHAP. 502.—An Act To authorize the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company to straighten and restore the channel of the South Canadian River, in the Indian Territory, at the crossing of said railroad.

Whereas the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company, heretofore, under and pursuant to authority conferred upon it by an act of Congress of the United States, built and constructed its line of railroad through the Indian Territory and through the Creek and Choctaw nations, and pursuant to said Congressional authority, as a part of its said line of railroad, many years since, at great expense, built and constructed a railroad bridge across the South Canadian River; and

Whereas the said South Canadian River, at the point it is crossed by said railroad bridge, and for a long distance on both sides, forms the established boundary line between the said Creek and Choctaw nations; and

Whereas recently unprecedented floods occurred in the South Canadian Valley, resulting in that river overflowing its banks at many points and flooding the contiguous territory and also resulting in the diversion of that river from its old channel at the point it was so bridged by the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company and for some distance above and below, and the formation of a new course some distance to the north of said bridge, washing away the railroad and railroad bed for a distance of about two miles, seriously interrupting and impeding the transportation of the mails, troops, munitions of war, and interstate commerce generally; and

Whereas it is important that the course of said river be restored to the old channel at and below the bridge of said Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company, and so established immediately above said bridge as to prevent as far as practicable any further shifting of the channel of the river and breaking of the railway embankments and