

during the construction or after the completion of the bridge, until the proposed change shall have been submitted to the Secretary of War and received his approval; and the said bridge shall be at all times so kept and managed as to offer reasonable and proper means for the passage of vessels under said bridge; and if at any time the navigation of said river shall in any manner be obstructed or impaired by the bridge authorized by this Act to be constructed, the Secretary of War shall have authority, and it shall be his duty, to require said company to alter and change said bridge at its own expense in such manner as may be proper to secure free and complete navigation without impediment.

SEC. 3. That any bridge built under this Act and subject to its limitations shall be a lawful structure and shall be recognized and known as a post route, upon which also no higher charge shall be made for the transmission over the same of the mail, the troops and munitions of war of the United States than the rate per mile paid for the transportation over the public highways leading to said bridge, and it shall enjoy the rights and privileges of other post roads of the United States; and equal privileges in the use of said bridge shall be granted to all telegraph and telephone companies, and the United States shall have the right of way across said bridge and its approaches for said postal-telegraph purposes.

Lawful structure and post route.

Telegraph, etc., companies.

SEC. 4. That this Act shall be null and void if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized be not commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date hereof.

Commencement and completion.

SEC. 5. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Amendment.

Approved, March 2, 1899.

CHAP. 372.—An Act Providing for the purchase of additional property for the use of the post-office and other Government offices in the city of Brooklyn, State of New York.

March 2, 1899.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to acquire, by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, the property known as lot thirty-six, block twenty, Ward Four, lying on the east side of Washington street, one hundred and seventy-five feet north of Johnson street and one hundred and twenty-two feet ten inches south of Tillary street, in the city of Brooklyn and State of New York, for the use and accommodation of the United States post-office and other Government offices in said city of Brooklyn: *Provided,* That the purchase price shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars.

Brooklyn, N. Y.
Purchase of additional property for public building at, authorized.

Proviso.
Limit of cost.

SEC. 2. That no money shall be used for the purpose mentioned until a valid title to the site for the said building shall be vested in the United States, nor until the State of New York shall have ceded to the United States exclusive jurisdiction over the same during the time the United States shall be or remain the owner thereof.

Title, etc.

Approved, March 2, 1899.

CHAP. 373.—An Act For the erection of a public building at Elmira, New York.

March 2, 1899.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to purchase, acquire by condemnation, or otherwise provide a site, and cause to be erected thereon a suitable, commodious, and substantial building, including fireproof vaults, heating and ventilating apparatus, and approaches, for the use and accommodation of the United States post-office, internal-

Elmira, N. Y.
Public building authorized.

Limit of cost. revenue offices, and United States courts, and for other Government uses, in the city of Elmira and State of New York, the cost of the site and the building, including fireproof vaults, heating and ventilating apparatus, and approaches, complete, not to exceed the sum of one hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars.

Proposals for site. Proposals for the sale of land suitable for said site shall be invited by public advertisement in one or more of the newspapers of said city for at least fourteen days prior to the date specified in the advertisement for opening the proposals.

Commission to decide on site. The proposals made in response to said public advertisement, at the time named in the advertisement, or within ten days subsequent thereto, shall be received, opened, and considered by a commission of three persons, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury; and it shall be the duty of said commissioners to forward to the Secretary of the Treasury, within forty days of the date named in the advertisement for opening the proposals, a written report, with the original proposals, maps, and so forth, and the oaths prescribed by Act of Congress approved June twenty-third, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, and to definitely state in said report the site selected by them, and their selection of the site shall be final; and each commissioner shall be allowed a compensation for his services of an amount within the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, said compensation not to exceed two hundred dollars and actual traveling expenses to each member.

—compensation.

Fire space.

Proviso.
Title, etc.

The building shall be unexposed to danger from fire by an open space of at least forty feet on each side, including streets and alleys: *Provided*, That no part of said sum, except ordinary preliminary expenses, shall be expended until a valid title to said site shall be vested in the United States and the State of New York shall cede to the United States exclusive jurisdiction over same, during the time the United States shall be or remain the owner thereof, for all purposes except the administration of the criminal laws of said State and the service of any civil process therein.

Approved, March 2, 1899.

March 2, 1899.

CHAP. 374.—An Act To provide for the acquiring of rights of way by railroad companies through Indian reservations, Indian lands, and Indian allotments, and for other purposes.

General right of way to railroads through Indian lands granted.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a right of way for a railway, telegraph and telephone line through any Indian reservation in any State or Territory, or through any lands held by an Indian tribe or nation in Indian Territory, or through any lands reserved for an Indian agency or for other purposes in connection with the Indian service, or through any lands which have been allotted in severalty to any individual Indian under any law or treaty, but which have not been conveyed to the allottee with full power of alienation, is hereby granted to any railroad company organized under the laws of the United States, or of any State or Territory, which shall comply with the provisions of this Act and such rules and regulations as may be prescribed thereunder: *Provided*, That no right of way shall be granted under this Act until the Secretary of the Interior is satisfied that the company applying has made said application in good faith and with intent and ability to construct said road, and in case objection to the granting of such right of way shall be made, said Secretary shall afford the parties so objecting a full opportunity to be heard: *Provided further*, That where a railroad has heretofore been constructed, or is in actual course of construction, no parallel right of way within ten miles on either side shall be granted by the Secretary of the Interior unless, in his opinion, public interest will be promoted thereby.

Proviso.
Approval of Secretary of the Interior, etc.

Parallel rights of way.

Width.

SEC. 2. That such right of way shall not exceed fifty feet in width