1866, July 27 - 14 Stat. 292, Railroad and Telegraph Line Lands Act

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BY AUTHORITY OF CONGRESS.

THE

Statutes at Large, Treaties, and

PROCLAMATIONS,

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

FROM

DECEMBER, 1865, TO MARCH, 1867.

Arranged in Chronological Order and carefully collated with the Originals at Washington.

WITH

REFERENCES TO THE MATTER OF EACH ACT AND TO THE SUBSEQUENT ACTS ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

EDITED BY

GEORGE P. SANGER,
COUNSELLOR AT LAW.

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VOL. XIV.

BOSTON:
LITTLE, BROWN, AND COMPANY
1868.

1866, July 27 - 14 Stat. 292, Railroad and Telegraph Line Lands Act
successors, by the name and title aforesaid, shall be capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all or any courts of justice, and before all and any judges, officers, or persons whatsoever, in all and singular actions, matters, or demands whatsoever.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the said corporation shall have power to hold stated meetings; to establish and put into execution, alter or abolish such by-laws, rules, and regulations as to them shall seem most conducive to the interests of the society; Provided, That the same shall not be contrary to the laws of the United States.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to authorize the said corporation to issue any note, token, device, or other evidence of debt to be used as a currency.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That this act may be altered or repealed at the pleasure of the Congress.

APPROVED, July 27, 1866.

CHAP. CCLXXVIII.—An Act granting Lands to aid in the Construction of a Railroad and Telegraph Line from the States of Missouri and Arkansas to the Pacific Coast.

Benjamin Gratz, C. E. Warren, Lazarus W. Powell, John Mason Brown, Joshua Speed, of Kentucky; Solon Thatcher, Jacob Stotter, William B. Edwards, James C. Cook, Robert McBratney, of Kansas; Harrison Hagaus, James C., Robert Crangle, Benjamin H. Smith, of West Virginia; Lorenzo Sherwood, A. J. Hamilton, of Texas; William Gilpin, Henry C. Leach, of Colorado; Phineas Banning, Timothy G. Phelps, William B. Carr, Edward F. Beale, Fred. F. Lowe, Benj. B. Reeding, B. W. Hathaway, Leonidas Haskell, Frederick Billings, of California; W. S. Laid, J. K. Moore, Walter Monteith, John Kelly, B. F. Dowell, of Oregon; James L. Johnson, Henry Connolly, Francisca Perea, of New Mexico; J. H. Mills, A. P. K. Safford, E. S. Davis, of Nevada; King S. Woolsey, William H. Hardy, Coles Bashford of Arizona; Henry D. Cooke, of the District of Columbia; and all such other persons who shall or may be associated with them, and their successors, are hereby created and erected into a body corporate and politic, in deed and in law, by the name, style, and title of the "Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company," and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and shall be able to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended, in all courts of law and equity within the United States, and may make and have a common seal. And said corporation is hereby authorized and empowered to lay out, locate, and construct, furnish, maintain, and enjoy, a continuous railroad and telegraph line, with the appurtenances, namely: Beginning at or near the town of Springfield, in the State of Missouri, thence to the western boundary line of said State, and thence by the most eligible railroad route as shall be determined by said company to a point on the Canadian River, thence to the town of Albuquerque, on the River Del Norte, and thence, by way of the Agua Frio, or other suitable pass, to the head-waters of the Colorado Chiquito, and thence, along the thirty-fifth parallel of latitude, as near as may be found most suitable for a railway route, to the Colorado River, at such point as may be selected by said company for crossing; thence by the most practicable and eligible route, to the Pacific. The said company shall have the right to construct a branch from the point at which the road strikes the Canadian River eastwardly, along the most suitable route as selected, to a point in the western boundary line of Arkansas, at or near the town of Van Buren. And the said company is hereby vested with all the powers, privileges, and immunities necessary to carry into effect the purposes of this act, as herein set forth. The capital stock of said company shall consist of one million shares of one hundred dollars each, which shall in all respects be deemed personal property, and shall be transferable in such manner as the laws of said corporation shall provide. The persons hereinbefore named are hereby appointed commissioners, and shall be called the board of commissioners of the "Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company," and fifteen shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The first meeting of said board of commissioners shall be held at the Turner Hall, in the city of Saint Louis, on the first day of October, anno Domini eighteen hundred and sixty-six, or at such time within three months thereafter as any ten commissioners, herein named from Missouri shall appoint, notice of which shall be given by them to the other commissioners. by publishing said notice in at least one daily newspaper in the cities of Boston, New York, Cincinnati, Saint Louis, Memphis, and Nashville, once a week for at least four weeks previous to the day of meeting. Said board shall organize by the choice from its number of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, and they shall require from said treasurer such bonds as may be deemed proper, and may from time to time increase the amount thereof, as they may deem proper. The secretary shall be sworn to the faithful performance of his duties, and such oath shall be entered upon the records of the company, signed by him, and the oath verified thereon. The president and secretary of

Name of corporation, &c.

Seal.

Corporation may locate and construct railroad and telegraph line.

Terminus and route.

Branch eastwardly to near Van Buren, Arkansas.

Powers and privileges.

Capital stock.

Persons before named appointed board of commissioners.

Quorum.

First meeting of commissioners.

Organization of board and officers.

Treasurer to give bonds.

Secretary to be sworn.
Other meetings, how called. Commissioners to open books for subscriptions to stock.

When and how first meeting of subscribers to stock to be called.

Directors. Each share to have a vote.

Inspectors of election.

Commissioners to deliver to directors all moneys, books, &c. and their duties to cease.

Annual meetings of corporation.

Right of way granted through public lands for construction of railroad and telegraph. Materials for construction.

Extent of grant of right of way.

Right of way exempt from taxation.

Indian title to be extinguished.

Public lands granted to the corporation to aid in the construction of railroad and telegraph.

said boards shall, in like manner, call all other meetings, naming the time and place thereof. It shall be the duty of said board of commissioners to open books, or cause books to be opened, at such times and in such principal cities or other places in the United States as they or a quorum of them shall determine, within twelve months after the passage of this act, to receive subscriptions to the capital stock of said corporation, and a cash payment of ten per centum on all subscriptions, and to receipt therefor. So soon as ten thousand shares shall in good faith be subscribed for, and ten dollars per share actually paid into the treasury of the company, the said president and secretary of said board of commissioners shall appoint a time and place for the first meeting of the subscribers to the stock of said company, and shall give notice thereof in at least one newspaper in each State in which subscription books have been opened, at least fifteen days previous to the day of meeting, and such subscribers as shall attend the meeting so called, either in person or by lawful proxy, then and there shall elect, by ballot, thirteen directors for said corporation; and in such election each share of said capital stock shall entitle the owner thereof to one vote. The president and secretary of the board of commissioners, and in case of their absence or inability any two of the officers of said board, shall act as inspectors of said election, and shall certify, under their hands, the names of the directors elected at said meeting. And the said commissioners, treasurer, and secretary shall then deliver over to said directors all the moneys, properties, subscription books, and other books in their possession, and thereupon the duties of said commissioners and the officers previously appointed by them shall cease and determine forever, and thereafter the stockholders shall constitute said body politic and corporate. Annual meetings of the stockholders of the said corporation for the choice of officers, (when they are to be chosen,) and for the transaction of business, shall be holden at such time and place and upon such notice as may be prescribed in the by-laws.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the right of way through the public lands be, and the same is hereby, granted to the said Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company, its successors and assigns, for the construction of a railroad and telegraph as proposed; and the right, power, and authority is hereby given to said corporation to take from the public lands adjacent to the line of said railroad material of earth, stone, timber, and so forth, for the construction thereof. Said way is granted to said railroad to the extent of one hundred feet in width on each side of said railroad where it may pass through the public domain, including all necessary grounds for station-buildings, workshops, depots, machine-shops, switches, side-tracks, turn-tables, and water-stations; and the right of way shall be exempt from taxation within the Territories of the United States. The United States shall extinguish, as rapidly as may be consistent with public policy and the welfare of the Indians, and only by their voluntary cession, the Indian title to all lands falling under the operation of this act and acquired in the donation to the road named in the act.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That there be, and hereby is, granted to the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company, its successors and assigns, for the purpose of aiding in the construction of said railroad and telegraph line to the Pacific coast, and to secure the safe and speedy transportation of the mails, troops, munitions of war, and public stores, over the route of said line of railway and its branches, every alternate section of public land, not mineral, designated by odd numbers, to the amount of twenty alternate sections per mile, on each side of said railroad line, as said company may adopt, through the Territories of the United States, and ten alternate sections of land per mile on each side of said railroad whenever it passes through any State, and whenever, on the line thereof, the United States have full title, not reserved, sold, granted, or otherwise appropriated, and free from pre-emption or other claims or rights,
at the time the line of said road is designated by a plat thereof, filed in the
office of the commissioner of the general land office; and whenever,
prior to said time, any of said sections or parts of sections shall have been
granted, sold, reserved, occupied by homestead settlers, or pre-empted, or
otherwise disposed of, other lands shall be selected by said company in
lieu thereof, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, in alter-
nate sections, and designated by odd numbers, not more than ten miles
beyond the limits of said alternate sections, and not including the re-
served numbers: Provided, That if said route shall be found upon the
line of any other railroad route, to aid in the construction of which lands
have been heretofore granted by the United States, as far as the routes
are upon the same general line, the amount of land heretofore granted
shall be deducted from the amount granted by this act: Provided fur-
ther, That the railroad company receiving the previous grant of land may
assign their interest to said "Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company," or
may consolidate, confederate, and associate with said company upon the
terms named in the first and seventeenth sections of this act: Provided
further, That all mineral lands be, and the same are hereby, excluded
from the operations of this act, and in lieu thereof a like quantity of un-
occupied and unappropriated agricultural lands in odd-numbered sections
nearest to the line of said road, and within twenty miles thereof, may be
selected as above provided: And provided further, That the word "min-
eral," when it occurs in this act, shall not be held to include iron or coal:
And provided further, That no money shall be drawn from the treasury of
the United States to aid in the construction of the said "Atlantic and
Pacific Railroad."

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That whenever said Atlantic and
Pacific Railroad Company shall have twenty-five consecutive miles of any
portion of said railroad and telegraph line ready for the service contem-
plated, the President of the United States shall appoint three commis-
sioners to examine the same, who shall be paid a reasonable compensation
for their services by the company, to be determined by the Secretary of
the Interior; and if it shall appear that twenty-five consecutive miles of
said road and telegraph line have been completed in a good, substantial
and workmanlike manner, as in all other respects required by this act,
the commissioners shall so report under oath, to the President of the United
States, and patents of lands, as aforesaid, shall be issued to said company,
confirming to said company the right and title to said lands situated oppo-
site to and coterminous with said completed section of said road. And
from time to time, whenever twenty-five additional consecutive miles shall
have been constructed, completed, and in readiness as aforesaid, and veri-
ified by said commissioners to the President of the United States, then pat-
ents shall be issued to said company conveying the additional sections of
land as aforesaid, and so on as fast as every twenty-five miles of said road is
completed as aforesaid.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That said Atlantic and Pacific Rail-
road shall be constructed in a substantial and workmanlike manner, with
all the necessary draws, culverts, bridges, viaducts, crossings, turn-outs,
stations and watering-places, and all other appurtenances, including fur-
niture and rolling stock, equal in all respects to railroads of the first class
when prepared for business, with rails of the best quality, manufactured
from American iron. And a uniform gauge shall be established through-
out the entire length of the road. And there shall be constructed a tele-
graph line, of the most substantial and approved description, to be oper-
ated along the entire line: Provided, That the said company shall not
charge the government higher rates than they do individuals for like trans-
portation and telegraphic service. And it shall be the duty of the Atlan-
tic and Pacific Railroad Company to permit any other railroad which
shall be authorized to be built by the United States, or by the legislature

If any of
granted lands
have been sold,
or reserved, &c.
other lands may
be selected in
lieu thereof.

If route is
found to be upon
the line of any
other road to
which lands
have been grant-
ed, amount of
former grant to
be deducted.

Road having
previous grant
may assign to,
or unite with,
the company.

Mineral lands
excluded from
operation of this
act.

The word
"mineral," not
to include "iron
or coal.

No money to
be drawn from
treasury to aid
in construction
of this road.

Upon report of
commissioners
under oath that
twenty-five con-
secutive miles
are completed,
patents for coter-
minous lands to
issue to com-
p any;

and so as to
any other
twenty-five con-
secutive miles.

Railroad how
to be con-
structed.

Rails.

Gauge

Telegraph

Rates for

line.

service.

Other rail-
roads may form
running con-
nexions with it
of any Territory or State in which the same may be situated, to form running connections with it, on fair and equitable terms.

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States shall cause the lands to be surveyed for forty miles in width on both sides of the entire line of said road after the general route shall be fixed, and as fast as may be required by the construction of said railroad; and the odd sections of land hereby granted shall not be liable to sale or entry, or pre-emption, before or after they are surveyed, except by said company, as provided in this act; but the provisions of the act of September, eighteen hundred and forty-one, granting pre-emption rights, and the acts amendatory thereof, and of the act entitled "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," approved May twenty, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, shall be, and the same are hereby, extended to all other lands on the line of said road when surveyed, excepting those hereby granted to said company.

SEC. 7. And be it further enacted, That the said Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company be, and is hereby, authorized and empowered to enter upon, purchase, take, and hold any lands or premises that may be necessary and proper for the construction and working of said road, not exceeding in width one hundred feet on each side of the line of its railroad, unless a greater width be required for the purpose of excavation or embankment; and also any lands or premises that may be necessary and proper for turn-outs, standing places for cars, depots, station-houses, or any other structures required in the construction and working of said road. And the said company shall have the right to cut and remove trees and other material that might, by falling, encumber its road-bed, though standing or being more than two hundred feet from the line of said road. And in case the owner of such lands or premises and the said company cannot agree as to the value of the premises taken, or to be taken, for the use of said road, the value thereof shall be determined by the appraisal of three disinterested commissioners, who may be appointed upon application by either party to any court of record in any of the Territories in which the lands or premises to be taken lie; and said commissioners, in their assessment of damages, shall appraise such premises at what would have been the value thereof if the road had not been built. And upon return into court of such appraisement, and upon the payment into the same of the estimated value of the premises taken for the use and benefit of the owner thereof, said premises shall be deemed to be taken by said company, which shall thereby acquire full title to the same for the purposes aforesaid. And either party feeling aggrieved at said appraisement may, within thirty days after the same has been returned into court, file an appeal therefrom, and demand a jury of twelve men to estimate the damage sustained; but such appeal shall not interfere with the rights of said company to enter upon the premises taken, or to do any act necessary and proper in the construction of its road. And said party appealing shall give bonds, with sufficient surety or sureties, for the payment of any cost that may arise upon such appeal; and in case the party appealing does not obtain a verdict more favorable, such party shall pay the whole cost incurred by the appellee, as well as his own, and the payment into court, for the use of the owner of said premises taken, at a sum equal to that finally awarded, shall be held to vest in said company the title of said land, and the right to use and occupy the same for the construction, maintenance, and operation of said road. And in case any of the lands to be taken as aforesaid shall be held by an infant, femme covert, non compos, insane person, or persons residing without the Territory within which the lands to be taken lie, or persons subjected to any legal disability, the court may appoint a guardian, for any party under any disqualification, to appear in proper person, who shall give bonds, with sufficient surety or sureties, for the proper and faithful execution of his trust, and who may
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represent in court the person disqualified, as aforesaid, from appearing, when the same proceedings shall be had in reference to the appraisement of the premises to be taken for the use of said company, and with the same effect as has been already described; and the title of the company to the lands taken by virtue of this act shall not be affected or impaired by reason of any failure by any guardian to discharge faithfully his trust. And in case any party shall have a right or claim to any land for a term of years, or any interest therein, in possession, reversion, or remainder, the value of any such estate, less than a fee simple, shall be estimated and determined in the manner hereinbefore set forth. And in case it shall be necessary for the company to enter upon any lands which are unoccupied, and of which there is no apparent owner or claimant, it may proceed to take and use the same for the purposes of said railroad, and may institute proceedings, in manner described, for the purpose of ascertaining the value of, and of acquiring a title to, the same; but the judge of the court hearing said suit shall determine the kinds of notice to be served on such owner or owners, and he may in his discretion appoint an agent or guardian to represent such owner or owners in case of his or their incapacity or non-appearance. But in case no claimant shall appear within six years from the time of the opening of said road across any land, all claims to damages against said company shall be barred.

SEC. 8. And be it further enacted, That each and every grant, right, and privilege herein are so made and given to and accepted by said Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company, upon and subject to the following conditions, namely: That the said company shall commence the work on said road within two years from the approval of this act by the President, and shall complete not less than fifty miles per year after the second year, and shall construct, equip, furnish, and complete the main line of the whole road by the fourth day of July, anno Domini eighteen hundred and seventy-eight.

SEC. 9. And be it further enacted, That the United States make the several conditional grants herein, and that the said Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company accept the same, upon the further condition that if the said company make any breach of the conditions hereof, and allow the same to continue for upwards of one year, then, in such case, at any time hereafter, the United States may do any and all acts and things which may be needful and necessary to insure a speedy completion of the said road.

SEC. 10. And be it further enacted, That all people of the United States shall have the right to subscribe to the stock of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company until the whole capital named in this act of incorporation is taken up by complying with the terms of subscription.

SEC. 11. And be it further enacted, That said Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, or any part thereof, shall be a post route and military road, subject to the use of the United States for postal, military, naval, and all other government service, and also subject to such regulations as Congress may impose restricting the charges for such government transportation.

SEC. 12. And be it further enacted, That the acceptance of the terms, conditions, and impositions of this act by the said Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company shall be signified in writing under the corporate seal of said company, duly executed pursuant to the direction of its board of directors first had and obtained, which acceptance shall be made within two years after the passage of this act, and not afterwards, and shall be deposited in the office of the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 13. And be it further enacted, That the directors of said company shall make and publish an annual report of their proceedings and expenditures, verified by the affidavits of the president and at least six of the directors, a copy of which shall be deposited in the office of said Secre-
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Rates of fare, tolls, &c. 

President and vice-president. 

Treasurer and secretary. 

Bonds. Secretary to be sworn. 

Who may not be a director. 

Term of office of president, vice-president, and directors. 

Powers of directors. Quorum. 

Vacancies. 

Engineers, agents, &c. 

Ten per cent of subscriptions to be paid in cash. 

Balance when due. Notices when payments are due. 

If stockholders neglect to pay, stock and previous payments forfeited. Redemption. 

Company may accept and hold any grant, loan, aid, &c. 

Secretary of the Interior, and they shall, from time to time, fix, determine, and regulate the fares, tolls, and charges to be received and paid for transportation of persons and property on said road, or any part thereof. 

SEC. 14. And be it further enacted, That the directors chosen in pursuance of the first section of this act shall, so soon as may be after their election, elect from their own number a president and vice-president; and such board of directors shall, from time to time, and so soon as may be after their election, choose a treasurer and secretary, who shall hold their offices at the will and pleasure of the board of directors. The treasurer and secretary shall give such bonds, with such security as the said board from time to time may require. The secretary shall, before entering upon his duty, be sworn to the faithful discharge thereof; and said oath shall be made a matter of record upon the books of said corporation. No person shall be a director of said company unless he shall be a stockholder, and qualified to vote for directors at the election at which he shall be chosen. 

SEC. 15. And be it further enacted, That the president, vice-president, and directors shall hold their offices for the period indicated in the by-laws of said company, not exceeding three years, respectively, and until others are chosen in their place, and qualified. In case it shall so happen that an election of directors shall not be made on any day appointed by the by-laws of said company, the corporation shall not for that excuse be deemed to be dissolved, but such election may be held on any day which shall be appointed by the directors. The directors, of whom seven, including the president, shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. shall have full power to make and prescribe such by-laws, rules, and regulations as they shall deem needful and proper touching the disposition and management of the stock, property, estate, and effects of the company, the transfer of shares, the duties and conduct of their officers and servants touching the election and meeting of the directors, and all matters whatsoever which may appertain to the concerns of said company; and the said board of directors may have full power to fill any vacancy or vacancies that may occur from any cause or causes from time to time in their said board. And the said board of directors shall have power to appoint such engineers, agents, and subordinates as may from time to time be necessary to carry into effect the object of the company, and to do all acts and things touching the location and construction of said road. 

SEC. 16. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the directors of said company to require payment of the sum of ten per centum on all subscriptions received of all subscribers, and the balance thereof at such times and in such proportions and on such conditions as they shall deem to be necessary to complete the said road and telegraph lines within the time in this act prescribed. Sixty days' previous notice shall be given of the payments required, and of the time and place of payment, by publishing a notice once a week in one daily newspaper in each of the cities of Boston, New York, Cincinnati, Saint Louis, Memphis, and Nashville, and in case any stockholder shall neglect or refuse to pay, in pursuance of such notice, the stock held by such person shall be forfeited absolutely to the use of the company, and also any payment or payments that shall have been made on account thereof, subject to the condition that the board of directors may allow the redemption on such terms as they may prescribe. 

SEC. 17. And be it further enacted, That the said company is authorized to accept and hold any grant, donation, loan, aid, or assistance which may be granted to or conferred on said company by the Congress of the United States, by the legislature of any State, or by any corporation, person, or persons, or by any Indian tribe or nation through whose reservation the road herein provided for may pass; and said corporation is authorized to hold and enjoy any such grant, donation,
loan, power, franchise, aid, or assistance, to its own use, for the purpose aforesaid: Provided, That any such grant or donation, power, aid, or assistance from any Indian tribe or nation shall be subject to the approval of the President of the United States.

SEC. 18. And be it further enacted, That the Southern Pacific Railroad, a company incorporated under the laws of the State of California, is hereby authorized to connect with the said Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, formed under this act, at such point, near the boundary line of the State of California, as they shall deem most suitable for a railroad line to San Francisco, and shall have a uniform gauge and rate of freight or fare with said road; and in consideration thereof, to aid in its construction, shall have similar grants of land, subject to all the conditions and limitations herein provided, and shall be required to construct its road on the like regulations, as to time and manner, with the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad herein provided for.

SEC. 19. And be it further enacted, That unless the said Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company shall obtain bona fide subscriptions to the stock of said company to the amount of one million of dollars, with ten per centum paid, within two years after the passage of and approval of this act, it shall be null and void.

SEC. 20. And be it further enacted, That the better to accomplish the object of this act, namely, to promote the public interest and welfare by the construction of said railroad and telegraph line, and keeping the same in working order, and to secure to the government at all times, but particularly in time of war, the use and benefits of the same for postal, military, and other purposes, Congress may, at any time, having due regard for the rights of said Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company, add to, alter, amend, or repeal this act.

SEC. 21. And be it further enacted, That whenever in any grant of land or other subsidies, made or hereafter to be made, to railroads or other corporations, the United States has reserved the right, or shall reserve it, to appoint directors, engineers, commissioners or other agents to examine said roads, or act in conjunction with other officers of said company or companies, all the costs, charges, and pay of said directors, engineers, commissioners, or agents, shall be paid by the respective companies. Said directors, engineers, commissioners, or agents shall be paid for said services the sum of ten dollars per day, for each and every day actually and necessarily employed, and ten cents per mile for each and every mile actually and necessarily travelled, in discharging the duties required of them, which per diem and mileage shall be in full compensation for said services. And in case any company shall refuse or neglect to make such payments, no more patents for lands or other subsidies shall be issued to said company, until these requirements are complied with.

APPROVED, July 27, 1866.

CHAP. CCLXXIX. — An Act to incorporate the General Hospital of the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Joseph Henry, James C. Hall, Amos Kendall, Thomas Miller, Richard Wallach, George W. Riggs, Grafton Tyler, Henry D. Cooke, D. W. Middleton, Charles Knap, Benjamin B. French, James C. McGuire, Charles H. Nichols, William B. Todd, William Gunton, Edward Sims, and Thomas Young, and their successors in office, are hereby made, declared, and constituted a corporation and body politic, in law and in fact, under the name and style of the Directors of the General Hospital of the District of Columbia, and by that name they shall be, and are hereby, made capable in law to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, in any court within the county of Wash-