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"Third. The township shall be subdivided into sections, containing, as nearly as may be, six hundred and forty acres each, by running parallel lines through the same from east to west and from south to north at the distance of one mile from each other, and marking corners at the distance of each half mile. The sections shall be numbered, respectively, beginning with the number one in the northeast section and proceeding west and east alternately through the township with progressive numbers, until the thirty-six be completed."

SEC. 2. Section 2410, Revised Statutes (43 U. S. C., sec. 770), is amended to read as follows:

"The Secretary of the Interior may, by regulation, provide that departures may be made from the system of rectangular surveys whenever it is not feasible or economical to extend the rectangular surveys in the regular manner or whenever such departure would promote the beneficial use of lands."

SEC. 3. Section 1 of the Act of April 13, 1926, entitled "An Act to authorize a departure from the rectangular system of surveys of homestead claims in Alaska, and for other purposes" (44 Stat. 243; 48 U. S. C., sec. 379), is hereby amended by deleting the following words: "and the provisions of the Act of June 28, 1918 (40 Stat. L. 632), insofar as they require that surveys executed thereunder, without expense to the claimant, must follow the general system of the public land surveys."

Repeals.

SEC. 4. Section 2408, Revised Statutes (43 U. S. C., sec. 768), and section 2409, Revised Statutes (43 U. S. C., sec. 769), are hereby repealed.

Approved April 29, 1950.

[CHAPTER 135]

AN ACT

April 29, 1950
[H. R. 3482]
[Public Law 491]

Granting the consent of the Congress to the negotiation of a compact relating to the waters of the Canadian River by the States of Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico.

Canadian River compact.
Consent of Congress.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the consent of the Congress is hereby given to the States of Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico to negotiate and enter into a compact not later than June 30, 1953, providing for an equitable apportionment among the said States of the waters of the Canadian River and its tributaries, upon the condition that one suitable person, who shall be appointed by the President of the United States, shall participate in said negotiations as the representative of the United States and shall make report to the Congress of the proceedings and of any compact entered into. Said compact shall not be binding or obligatory upon any of the parties thereto unless and until the same shall have been ratified by the legislature of each of the States aforesaid and approved by the Congress of the United States.

Approved April 29, 1950.

[CHAPTER 136]

AN ACT

April 29, 1950
[H. R. 4285]
[Public Law 492]

To amend the Act of July 31, 1946, in order retroactively to advance in grade, time in grade, and compensation certain employees in the postal field service who are veterans of World War II.

Postal field service.
Adjustment in grade, etc., of certain employees.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That subsection (a) of the first section of the Act entitled "An Act to provide benefits for

certain employees of the United States who are veterans of World War II and lost opportunity for probational civil-service appointments by reason of their service in the armed forces of the United States", approved July 31, 1946, is hereby amended by inserting before the proviso in such subsection the following: "*Provided*, That the grade, time in grade, and rate of compensation of any person so appointed to a position in the postal field service shall, at the time this Act first applies to such person, be not less than the grade, time in grade, and rate of compensation of the lower eligible (whether a substitute or regular employee) receiving the highest automatic rate of compensation at such time, but such adjustment in grade, time in grade, and rate of compensation shall not affect the status of such person as a substitute or regular employee:".

60 Stat. 749.
5 U. S. C. § 645a (a).

Effective date.
Nonapplicability.

SEC. 2. The amendment made by this Act to such Act of July 31, 1946, shall take effect as of August 1, 1946, but shall not apply in the case of any person who has been separated from the postal service prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. This Act shall not apply to employees of the Railway Mail Service.

Approved April 29, 1950.

[CHAPTER 137]

April 29, 1950
[H. R. 4289]
[Public Law 493]

AN ACT

To require settlers on public lands in Alaska to record notice of their settlement claims in the land office for the district in which the lands are situated, and for other purposes.

Alaska, public lands.
Filing of notice of settlement claims.
32 Stat. 1029.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the part of the Act of March 3, 1903 (32 Stat. 1028, 48 U. S. C., sec. 371), which reads: "that the record of said location shall, within ninety days from the date of settlement, be filed for record in the recording district in which the land is situated. Said record shall contain the name of the settler, the date of the settlement, and such a description of the land settled upon, by reference to some natural object or permanent monument, as will identify the same; and, if after the expiration of the said period of five years or at such date as the settler may desire to commute the public surveys of the United States have not been extended over the land located, a patent shall nevertheless issue for the land included within the boundaries of said location as thus recorded, upon proof to be submitted to the register and receiver of the proper land office, upon proof that he is a citizen of the United States, and upon the further proof required by section twenty-two hundred and ninety-one of the Revised Statutes of the United States as heretofore and herein amended, and under the procedure in the obtaining of patents to the unsurveyed lands of the United States, as provided for by section ten of the Act hereby amended, and under such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior as hereinbefore provided, without the payment of any purchase price or other charges, except the ordinary office fees and commissions of the register and receiver except one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre on land commuted:" is hereby amended to read as follows: "that within ninety days from the date of settlement on surveyed or unsurveyed lands a notice shall be filed by or on behalf of the settler for record in the United States land office for the district in which the land is situated. Said notice shall contain the name of the settler and the date of the settlement, and such a description of the land settled upon, if surveyed, by legal subdivisions, section, township, and range, or, if

43 U. S. C. § 164.

30 Stat. 413.
48 U. S. C. §§ 359, 461–465.