

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the right of way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted. Right of way for highways.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever, by priority of possession, rights to the use of water for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, have vested and accrued, and the same are recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and the decisions of courts, the possessors and owners of such vested rights shall be maintained and protected in the same; and the right of way for the construction of ditches and canals for the purposes aforesaid is hereby acknowledged and confirmed: *Provided, however*, That whenever, after the passage of this act, any person or persons shall, in the construction of any ditch or canal, injure or damage the possession of any settler on the public domain, the party committing such injury or damage shall be liable to the party injured for such injury or damage. Owners of vested rights to use of water for mining, &c. to be protected, and right of way for canals and ditches granted.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That wherever, prior to the passage of this act, upon the lands heretofore designated as mineral lands, which have been excluded from survey and sale, there have been homesteads made by citizens of the United States, or persons who have declared their intention to become citizens, which homesteads have been made, improved, and used for agricultural purposes, and upon which there have been no valuable mines of gold, silver, cinnabar, or copper discovered, and which are properly agricultural lands, the said settlers or owners of such homesteads shall have a right of pre-emption thereto, and shall be entitled to purchase the same at the price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, and in quantity not to exceed one hundred and sixty-acres; or said parties may avail themselves of the provisions of the act of Congress approved May twenty, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, entitled "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," and acts amendatory thereof. Owners of homesteads made upon lands designated as mineral, in which no valuable mines of gold, &c. have been found, &c. may pre-empt the same, &c.; or may take them as homesteads. 1862, ch. 75. Vol XII. p. 392.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That upon the survey of the lands aforesaid, the Secretary of the Interior may designate and set apart such portions of the said lands as are clearly agricultural lands, which lands shall thereafter be subject to pre-emption and sale as other public lands of the United States, and subject to all the laws and regulations applicable to the same. Upon survey, lands clearly agricultural may be set apart and made subject to pre-emption and sale.

APPROVED, July 26, 1866.

CHAP CCLXIII. — *An Act to authorize "The Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River Tidewater Canal Company" to enter the District of Columbia, and extend their Canal to the Anacostia River at any Point above Benning's Bridge.* July 26, 1866.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That "The Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River Tide-water Canal Company," incorporated by the general assembly of the State of Maryland, at the January session thereof, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, by an act entitled "An act to incorporate the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River Tide-water Canal Company," be, and the same are hereby, authorized to extend their canal from the point where it strikes the boundary line of the District of Columbia, thence in and through the said District to the Anacostia River at any point thereon above Benning's bridge.

The Chesapeake Bay, &c. Canal Company may extend its canal to Anacostia River,

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said company are hereby authorized and empowered to take, purchase, and hold, for the purpose[s] of this act, so much real estate and other property as shall be necessarily required for the proper construction of the extension aforesaid, and for the construction of all proper and convenient basins, locks, reservoirs, docks, and wharves, to be connected with said extension. And where the said company shall not be able to procure such real estate by purchase may take and hold property necessary for proper construction of extension, &c. Proceedings where land cannot be purchased.