

TITLE LVII.

PENSIONS.

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Who may have pensions.

3 March, 1873, c. 234, s. 1, v. 17, pp. 566, 567.

SEC. 4692. Every person specified in the several classes enumerated in the following section, who has been, since the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, or who is hereafter disabled under the conditions therein stated, shall, upon making due proof of the fact, according to such forms and regulations as are or may be provided in pursuance of law, be placed on the list of invalid pensioners of the United States, and be entitled to receive, for a total disability, or a permanent specific disability, such pension as is hereinafter provided in such cases; and for an inferior disability, except in cases of permanent specific disability, for which the rate of pension is expressly provided, an amount proportionate to that provided for total disability; and such pension shall commence as hereinafter provided, and continue during the existence of the disability.

Classes enumerated.

Officers of Army and Navy, and enlisted men, &c.

Ibid.

Master, &c., serving on gun-boat, &c.

Volunteers, not enlisted, &c.

Acting assistant surgeon, &c.

Provost-marshal, &c.

SEC. 4693. The persons entitled as beneficiaries under the preceding section are as follows:

First. Any officer of the Army, including regulars, volunteers, and militia, or any officer in the Navy or Marine Corps, or any enlisted man, however employed, in the military or naval service of the United States, or in its Marine Corps, whether regularly mustered or not, disabled by reason of any wound or injury received, or disease contracted, while in the service of the United States and in the line of duty.

Second. Any master serving on a gun-boat, or any pilot, engineer, sailor, or other person not regularly mustered, serving upon any gun-boat or war-vessel of the United States, disabled by any wound or injury received, or otherwise incapacitated while in the line of duty, for procuring his subsistence by manual labor.

Third. Any person not an enlisted soldier in the Army, serving for the time being as a member of the militia of any State, under orders of an officer of the United States, or who volunteered for the time being to serve with any regularly organized military or naval force of the United States, or who otherwise volunteered and rendered service in any engagement with rebels or Indians, disabled in consequence of wounds or injury received in the line of duty in such temporary service. But no claim of a State militiaman, or non-enlisted person, on account of disability from wounds, or injury received in battle with rebels or Indians, while temporarily rendering service, shall be valid unless prosecuted to a successful issue prior to the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and seventy-four.

Fourth. Any acting assistant or contract surgeon disabled by any wound or injury received or disease contracted in the line of duty while actually performing the duties of assistant surgeon or acting assistant surgeon with any military force in the field, or in transitu, or in hospital.

Fifth. Any provost-marshal, deputy provost-marshal, or enrolling-officer disabled, by reason of any wound or injury, received in the discharge of his duty, to procure a subsistence by manual labor.

SEC. 4694. No person shall be entitled to a pension by reason of wounds or injury received or disease contracted in the service of the United States subsequent to the twenty-seventh day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, unless the person who was wounded, or injured, or contracted the disease was in the line of duty; and, if in the military service, was at the time actually in the field, or on the march, or at some post, fort, or garrison, or en route, by direction of competent authority, to some post, fort, or garrison; or, if in the naval service, was at the time borne on the books of some ship or other vessel of the United States, at sea or in harbor, actually in commission, or was at some naval station, or on his way, by direction of competent authority, to the United States, or to some other vessel or naval station, or hospital.

Pension for wounds received or diseases contracted only in line of duty, &c.

Ibid., p. 567.

SEC. 4695. The pension for total disability shall be as follows, namely: For lieutenant-colonel and all officers of higher rank in the military service and in the Marine Corps, and for captain, and all officers of higher rank, commander, surgeon, paymaster, and chief engineer, respectively ranking with commander by law, lieutenant commanding and master commanding, in the naval service, thirty dollars per month; for major in the military service and in the Marine Corps, and lieutenant, surgeon, paymaster, and chief engineer, respectively ranking with lieutenant by law, and passed assistant surgeon in the naval service, twenty-five dollars per month; for captain in the military service and in the Marine Corps, chaplain in the Army, and provost-marshal, professor of mathematics, master, assistant surgeon, assistant paymaster, and chaplain in the naval service, twenty dollars per month; for first lieutenant in the military service and in the Marine Corps, acting assistant or contract surgeon, and deputy provost-marshal, seventeen dollars per month; for second lieutenant in the military service and in the Marine Corps, first assistant engineer, ensign, and pilot in the naval service, and enrolling-officer, fifteen dollars per month; for cadet-midshipman, passed midshipman, midshipmen, clerks of admirals and paymasters and of other officers commanding vessels, second and third assistant engineer, master's mate, and all warrant-officers in the naval service, ten dollars per month; and for all other persons whose rank or office is not mentioned in this section, eight dollars per month; and the masters, pilots, engineers, sailors, and crews upon the gun-boats and war-vessels shall be entitled to receive the pension allowed herein to those of like rank in the naval service.

Rates of pension for total disability.

Ibid., s. 2, p. 567.

SEC. 4696. Every commissioned officer of the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps shall receive such and only such pension as is provided in the preceding section, for the rank he held at the time he received the injury or contracted the disease which resulted in the disability, on account of which he may be entitled to a pension; and any commission or presidential appointment, regularly issued to such person, shall be taken to determine his rank from and after the date, as given in the body of the commission or appointment conferring said rank: *Provided*, That a vacancy existed in the rank thereby conferred; that the person commissioned was not disabled for military duty; and that he did not willfully neglect or refuse to be mustered.

Pension according to rank.

Ibid.

SEC. 4697. For the period commencing July fourth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and ending June third, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, those persons entitled to a less pension than hereinafter mentioned, who shall have lost both feet in the military or naval service and in the line of duty, shall be entitled to a pension of twenty dollars per month; for the same period those persons who, under like circumstances, shall have lost both hands or the sight of both eyes, shall be entitled to a pension of twenty-five dollars per month; and for the period commencing March third, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, and ending June third, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, those persons who under like circumstances shall have lost one hand and one foot, shall be entitled to a pension of twenty dollars per month; and for the period commencing June sixth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and ending June third,

Pensions for permanent specific disability prior to June 4, 1872.

Ibid., s. 3, p. 568.

eighteen hundred and seventy-two, those persons who under like circumstances shall have lost one hand or one foot, shall be entitled to a pension of fifteen dollars per month; and for the period commencing June sixth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and ending June third, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, those persons entitled to a less pension than hereinafter mentioned, who by reason of injury received or disease contracted in the military or naval service of the United States and in the line of duty, shall have been permanently and totally disabled in both hands, or who shall have lost the sight of one eye, the other having been previously lost, or who shall have been otherwise so totally and permanently disabled as to render them utterly helpless, or so nearly so as to require regular personal aid and attendance of another person, shall be entitled to a pension of twenty-five dollars per month; and for the same period those who under like circumstances shall have been totally and permanently disabled in both feet, or in one hand and one foot, or otherwise so disabled as to be incapacitated for the performance of any manual labor, but not so much as to require regular personal aid and attention, shall be entitled to a pension of twenty dollars per month; and for the same period all persons who under like circumstances shall have been totally and permanently disabled in one hand, or one foot, or otherwise so disabled as to render their inability to perform manual labor equivalent to the loss of a hand or foot, shall be entitled to a pension of fifteen dollars per month.

Pensions for permanent specific disabilities after June 4, 1872.

Ibid., s. 4, p. 569.

SEC. 4698. From and after June fourth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, all persons entitled by law to a less pension than hereinafter specified, who, while in the military or naval service of the United States, and in line of duty, shall have lost the sight of both eyes, or shall have lost the sight of one eye, the sight of the other having been previously lost, or shall have lost both hands, or shall have lost both feet, or been permanently and totally disabled in the same, or otherwise so permanently and totally disabled as to render them utterly helpless, or so nearly so as to require the regular personal aid and attendance of another person, shall be entitled to a pension of thirty-one dollars and twenty-five cents per month; and all persons who, under like circumstances, shall have lost one hand and one foot, or been totally and permanently disabled in the same, or otherwise so disabled as to be incapacitated for performing any manual labor, but not so much as to require regular personal aid and attendance, shall be entitled to a pension of twenty-four dollars per month; and all persons who, under like circumstances, shall have lost one hand, or one foot, or been totally and permanently disabled in the same, or otherwise so disabled as to render their incapacity to perform manual labor equivalent to the loss of a hand or foot, shall be entitled to a pension of eighteen dollars per month: *Provided*, That all persons who, under like circumstances, have lost a leg above the knee, and in consequence thereof are so disabled that they cannot use artificial limbs, shall be rated in the second class and receive twenty-four dollars per month from and after June fourth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two; and all persons who, under like circumstances, shall have lost the hearing of both ears, shall be entitled to a pension of thirteen dollars per month from the same date: *Provided*, That the pension for a disability not permanent, equivalent in degree to any provided for in this section, shall, during the continuance of the disability in such degree, be at the same rate as that herein provided for a permanent disability of like degree.

Increase of pensions.

Ibid.

SEC. 4698½. Except in cases of permanent specific disabilities, no increase of pension shall be allowed to commence prior to the date of the examining surgeon's certificate establishing the same made under the pending claim for increase; and in this, as well as all other cases, the certificate of an examining surgeon, or of a board of examining surgeons, shall be subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Pensions.

SEC. 4699. The rate of eighteen dollars per month may be proportionately divided for any degree of disability established for which section forty-six hundred and ninety-five makes no provision.

Pensions for disability not otherwise provided for.

Ibid., s. 5, p. 569.

SEC. 4700. Officers absent on sick-leave, and enlisted men absent on sick-furlough, or on veteran-furlough with the organization to which they belong, shall be regarded in the administration of the pension-laws in the same manner as if they were in the field or hospital.

Absentees.

Ibid., s. 6.

SEC. 4701. The period of service of all persons entitled to the benefits of the pension-laws, or on account of whose death any person may become entitled to a pension, shall be construed to extend to the time of disbanding the organization to which such persons belonged, or until their actual discharge for other cause than the expiration of the service of such organization.

Period of service, how construed.

Ibid., s. 7.

SEC. 4702. If any person embraced within the provisions of sections forty-six hundred and ninety-two and forty-six hundred and ninety-three has died since the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, or hereafter dies by reason of any wound, injury, or disease, which, under the conditions and limitations of such sections, would have entitled him to an invalid pension had he been disabled, his widow, or if there be no widow, or in case of her death, without payment to her of any part of the pension hereinafter mentioned, his child or children, under sixteen years of age, shall be entitled to receive the same pension as the husband or father would have been entitled to had he been totally disabled, to commence from the death of the husband or father, to continue to the widow during her widowhood, and to his child or children until they severally attain the age of sixteen years, and no longer; and, if the widow remarry, the child or children shall be entitled from the date of remarriage.

Pensions to widows or to children under sixteen years, &c.

Ibid., s. 8.

SEC. 4703. The pensions of widows shall be increased from and after the twenty-fifth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-six at the rate of two dollars per month for each child under the age of sixteen years, of the husband on account of whose death the claim has been, or shall be, granted. And in every case in which the deceased husband has left, or shall leave, no widow, or where his widow has died or married again, or where she has been deprived of her pension under the provisions of the pension-law, the pension granted to such child or children shall be increased to the same amount per month that would be allowed under the foregoing provisions to the widow, if living and entitled to a pension: *Provided*, That the additional pension herein granted to the widow on account of the child or children of the husband by a former wife shall be paid to her only for such period of her widowhood as she has been, or shall be, charged with the maintenance of such child or children; for any period during which she has not been, or she shall not be, so charged, it shall be granted and paid to the guardian of such child or children: *Provided further*, That a widow or guardian to whom increase of pension has been, or shall hereafter be, granted on account of minor children, shall not be deprived thereof by reason of their being maintained in whole or in part at the expense of a State or the public in any educational institution, or in any institution organized for the care of soldiers' orphans.

Increased pension to widows, &c.

Ibid., s. 9, p. 570.

SEC. 4704. In the administration of the pension-laws, children born before the marriage of their parents, if acknowledged by the father before or after the marriage, shall be deemed legitimate.

What children deemed legitimate.

Ibid., s. 10.

SEC. 4705. The widows of colored and Indian soldiers and sailors who have died, or shall hereafter die, by reason of wounds or injuries received, or casualty received, or disease contracted, in the military or naval service of the United States, and in the line of duty, shall be entitled to receive the pension provided by law without other evidence of marriage than satisfactory proof that the parties were joined in marriage by some ceremony deemed by them obligatory, or habitually recognized each other as man and wife, and were so recognized by their neighbors, and lived

Widows of colored and Indian soldiers, &c.

Ibid., s. 11.

together as such up to the date of enlistment, when such soldier or sailor died in the service, or, if otherwise, to date of death; and the children born of any marriage so proved shall be deemed and held to be lawful children of such soldier or sailor, but this section shall not be applicable to any claims on account of persons who enlist after the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

Abandonment,
&c., by widow.

Ibid., s. 12.

SEC. 4706. If any person has died, or shall hereafter die, leaving a widow entitled to a pension by reason of his death, and a child or children under sixteen years of age by such widow, and it shall be duly certified under seal by any court having probate jurisdiction, that satisfactory evidence has been produced before such court, upon due notice to the widow, that she has abandoned the care of such child or children, or that she is an unsuitable person, by reason of immoral conduct, to have the custody of the same, on presentation of satisfactory evidence thereof to the Commissioner of Pensions, no pension shall be allowed to such widow until such child or children shall have attained the age of sixteen years, any provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding; and the said child or children shall be pensioned in the same manner, and from the same date, as if no widow had survived such person, and such pension shall be paid to the guardian of such child or children; but if in any case payment of pension shall have been made to the widow, the pension to the child or children shall commence from the date to which her pension has been paid.

Succession of dependent relatives.

Ibid., s. 13, p. 571.

SEC. 4707. If any person embraced within the provisions of sections forty-six hundred and ninety-two and forty-six hundred and ninety-three has died since the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, or shall hereafter die, by reason of any wound, injury, casualty, or disease, which, under the conditions and limitations of such sections, would have entitled him to an invalid pension, and has not left or shall not leave a widow or legitimate child, but has left or shall leave other relative or relatives who were dependent upon him for support, in whole or in part, at the date of his death, such relative or relatives shall be entitled, in the following order of precedence, to receive the same pension as such person would have been entitled to had he been totally disabled, to commence from the death of such person, namely: first, the mother; secondly, the father; thirdly, orphan brothers and sisters under sixteen years of age, who shall be pensioned jointly: *Provided*, That where orphan children of the same parent have different guardians, or a portion of them only are under guardianship, the share of the joint pension to which each ward shall be entitled shall be paid to the guardian of such ward: *Provided*, That if in any case said person shall have left father and mother who were dependent upon him, then, on the death of the mother, the father shall become entitled to the pension, commencing from and after the death of the mother; and upon the death of the mother and father, or upon the death of the father and the remarriage of the mother, the dependent brothers and sisters under sixteen years of age shall jointly become entitled to such pension until they attain the age of sixteen years respectively, commencing from the death or remarriage of the party who had the prior right to the pension: *Provided*, That a mother shall be assumed to have been dependent upon her son within the meaning of this section if, at the date of his death, she had no other adequate means of support than the ordinary proceeds of her own manual labor and the contributions of said son or of any other persons not legally bound to aid in her support; and if, by actual contributions, or in any other way, the son had recognized his obligations to aid in support of his mother, or was by law bound to such support, and that a father or minor brother or sister shall, in like manner and under like conditions, be assumed to have been dependent, except that the income which was derived or derivable from his actual or possible manual labor shall be taken into account in estimating a father's means of independent support: *Provided further*, That the pension allowed to any person on account of his or her dependence, as

hereinbefore provided, shall not be paid for any period during which it shall not be necessary as a means of adequate subsistence.

SEC. 4708. The remarriage of any widow, dependent mother, or dependent sister, entitled to pension, shall not bar her right to such pension to the date of her remarriage, whether an application therefor was filed before or after such marriage; but on the remarriage of any widow, dependent mother, or dependent sister, having a pension, such pension shall cease.

Remarriage.

Ibid., s. 14.

SEC. 4709. All pensions which have been, or which may hereafter be, granted in consequence of death occurring from a cause which originated in the service since the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, or in consequence of wounds or injuries received or disease contracted since that date, shall commence from the death or discharge of the person on whose account the claim has been or is hereafter granted, or from the termination of the right of party having prior title to such pension; provided the application for such pension has been or is hereafter filed with the Commissioner of Pensions within five years after the right thereto has accrued; otherwise the pension shall commence from the date of filing the last evidence necessary to establish the same. But the limitation herein prescribed shall not apply to claims by or in behalf of insane persons and children under sixteen years.

Commencement
of pensions after
March 4, 1861.

Ibid., s. 15, p. 572.

SEC. 4710. In construing the preceding section, the right of persons entitled to pensions shall be recognized as accruing at the date therein stated for the commencement of such pension, and the right of a dependent father or dependent brother to pension shall not in any case be held to have accrued prior to the sixth day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-six; and the right of all other classes of claimants, if applying on account of the death of a person who was regularly mustered into the service, or regularly employed in the Navy or upon the gun-boats or war-vessels of the United States, shall not be held to have accrued prior to the fourteenth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-two; if applying on account of a chaplain of the Army, their right shall not be held to have accrued prior to the ninth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-four; if applying on account of an enlisted soldier who was not mustered, or a non-enlisted man in temporary service, their right shall not be held to have accrued prior to the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-four; if applying on account of an acting assistant or contract surgeon, their right shall not be held to have accrued prior to the third day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty-five; if applying on account of persons enlisted as teamsters, wagoners, artificers, hospital-stewards, or farriers, their right shall not be held to have accrued prior to the sixth day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-six; and the right of all classes of claimants applying on account of a provost-marshal, deputy provost-marshal, or enrolling-officer, shall not be held to have accrued prior to the twenty-fifth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-six. But the right of a widow or dependent mother who married prior, and did not apply till subsequent to the twenty-seventh day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, shall not be held to have accrued prior to that date.

When pension
deemed to have ac-
crued.

Ibid., s. 16.

SEC. 4711. It shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Pensions, upon any application by letter or otherwise by or on behalf of any pensioner entitled to arrears of pension under section forty-seven hundred and nine, or if any such pensioner has died, upon a similar application by or on behalf of any person entitled to receive the accrued pension due such pensioner at his death, to pay or cause to be paid to such pensioner, or other person, all such arrears of pension as the pensioner may be entitled to, or, if dead, would have been entitled to under the provisions of that section had he survived; and no claim-agent or other person shall be entitled to receive any compensation for services in making application for arrears of pension.

Arrears of pen-
sion.

Ibid., s. 17.

Provisions of
pension laws ex-
tended, &c.

Ibid., s. 18.

SEC. 4712. The provisions of this Title in respect to the rates of pension to persons whose right accrued since the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, are extended to pensioners whose right to pension accrued under general acts passed since the war of the Revolution and prior to the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, to take effect from and after the twenty-fifth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-six; and the widows of revolutionary soldiers and sailors receiving a less sum shall be paid at the rate of eight dollars per month from and after the twenty-seventh day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight.

Commencement
of pensions for
prior wars.

Ibid., s. 19, p. 573.

SEC. 4713. In all cases in which the cause of disability or death originated in the service prior to the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, and an application for pension shall not have been filed within three years from the discharge or death of the person on whose account the claim is made, or within three years of the termination of a pension previously granted on account of the service and death of the same person, the pension shall commence from the date of filing by the party prosecuting the claim the last paper requisite to establish the same. But no claim allowed prior to the sixth day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, shall be affected by anything herein contained.

Declaration of
claimants.

Ibid., s. 21.

SEC. 4714. Declarations of pension claimants shall be made before a court of record, or before some officer thereof having custody of its seal, said officer hereby being fully authorized and empowered to administer and certify any oath or affirmation relating to any pension or application therefor: *Provided*, That the Commissioner of Pensions may designate, in localities more than twenty-five miles distant from any place at which such court is holden, persons duly qualified to administer oaths, before whom declarations may be made and testimony taken, and may accept declarations of claimants residing in foreign countries, made before a United States minister or consul, or before some officer of the country duly authorized to administer oaths for general purposes, and whose official character and signature shall be duly authenticated by the certificate of a United States minister or consul; declarations in claims of Indians made before a United States agent; and declarations in claims under the provisions of this Title relating to pensions for services in the war of eighteen hundred and twelve, made before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths for general purposes, when the applicants, by reason of infirmity of age, are unable to travel: *Provided*, That any declaration made before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths for general purposes shall be accepted to exempt a claim from the limitation as to date of filing prescribed in section forty-seven hundred and nine.

Only one pension
at a time.

Ibid., s. 20.

SEC. 4715. Nothing in this Title shall be so construed as to allow more than one pension at the same time to the same person, or to persons entitled jointly; but any pensioner who shall so elect may surrender his certificate, and receive, in lieu thereof, a certificate for any other pension to which he would have been entitled had not the surrendered certificate been issued. But all payments previously made for any period covered by the new certificate shall be deducted from the amount allowed by such certificate.

Loyalty.

Ibid., s. 23.

SEC. 4716. No money on account of pension shall be paid to any person, or to the widow, children, or heirs of any deceased person, who in any manner voluntarily engaged in, or aided or abetted, the late rebellion against the authority of the United States.

Claims to be prosecuted
within
what time.

Ibid., s. 24.

SEC. 4717. No claim for pension not prosecuted to successful issue within five years from the date of filing the same shall be admitted without record-evidence from the War or Navy Department of the injury or the disease which resulted in the disability or death of the person on whose account the claim is made: *Provided*, That in any case in which the limitation prescribed by this section bars the further prosecution of the claim, the claimant may present, through the Pension-Office, to the Adjutant-General of the Army, or the Surgeon-General of

the Navy, evidence that the disease or injury which resulted in the disability or death of the person on whose account the claim is made, originated in the service and in the line of duty; and if such evidence is deemed satisfactory by the officer to whom it may be submitted, he shall cause a record of the fact so proved to be made, and a copy of the same to be transmitted to the Commissioner of Pensions, and the bar to the prosecution of the claim shall thereby be removed.

SEC. 4718. If any pensioner has died or shall hereafter die; or if any person entitled to a pension, having an application therefor pending, has died or shall hereafter die, his widow, or if there is no widow, the child or children of such person under the age of sixteen years, shall be entitled to receive the accrued pension to the date of the death of such person. Such accrued pension shall not be considered as a part of the assets of the estate of deceased, nor liable to be applied to the payment of the debts of said estate in any case whatever, but shall inure to the sole and exclusive benefit of the widow or children; and if no widow or child survive, no payment whatsoever of the accrued pension shall be made or allowed, except so much as may be necessary to reimburse the person who bore the expenses of the last sickness and burial of the decedent, in cases where he did not leave sufficient assets to meet such expenses.

SEC. 4719. The failure of any pensioner to claim his pension for three years after the same shall have become due shall be deemed presumptive evidence that such pension has legally terminated by reason of the pensioner's death, remarriage, recovery from the disability, or otherwise, and the pensioner's name shall be stricken from the list of pensioners, subject to the right of restoration to the same on a new application by the pensioner, or, if the pensioner is dead, by the widow or minor children entitled to receive the accrued pension, accompanied by evidence satisfactorily accounting for the failure to claim such pension, and by medical evidence in cases of invalids who were not exempt from biennial examinations as to the continuance of the disability.

SEC. 4720. When the rate, commencement, and duration of a pension allowed by special act are fixed by such act, they shall not be subject to be varied by the provisions and limitations of the general pension-laws, but when not thus fixed the rate and continuance of the pension shall be subject to variation in accordance with the general laws, and its commencement shall date from the passage of the special act, and the Commissioner of Pensions shall, upon satisfactory evidence that fraud was perpetrated in obtaining such special act, suspend payment thereupon until the propriety of repealing the same can be considered by Congress.

SEC. 4721. The term of limitation prescribed by sections forty-seven hundred and nine and forty-seven hundred and seventeen shall, in pending claims of Indians, be extended to two years from and after the third day of March, eighteen hundred and seventy-three; all proof which has heretofore been taken before an Indian agent, or before an officer of any tribe, competent according to the rules of said tribe to administer oaths, shall be held and regarded by the Pension-Office, in the examining and determining of claims of Indians now on file, as of the same validity as if taken before an officer recognized by the law at the time as competent to administer oaths; all proof wanting in said claims hereafter, as well as in those filed after the third day of March, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, shall be taken before the agent of the tribe to which the claimants respectively belong; in regard to dates, all applications of Indians now on file shall be treated as though they were made before a competent officer at their respective dates, and if found to be in all other respects conclusive, they shall be allowed; and Indians shall be exempted from the obligation to take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States.

Accrued pensions.

Ibid., s. 25, p. 574.

Unclaimed pensions.

Ibid., s. 26.

Pensions under special acts of Congress.

Ibid., s. 27.

Indian claims.

Ibid., s. 28.

Provisions extended to Missouri State militia.

Ibid., s. 8, p. 570.

SEC. 4722. The provisions of this Title are extended to the officers and privates of the Missouri State militia, and the provisional Missouri militia, disabled by reason of injury received or disease contracted in the line of duty while such militia was co-operating with United States forces, and the widow or children of any such person, dying of injury received or disease contracted under the circumstances herein set forth, shall be entitled to the benefits of this Title. But the pensions on account of such militia shall not commence prior to the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

Colored soldiers enrolled as "slaves."

Ibid., c. 262, p. 601.

Both pension and pay not allowed, unless, &c.

30 April, 1844, c. 15, v. 5, p. 657.

16 Aug., 1841, c. 3, s. 2, v. 5, p. 440.

Half-pay to widows, &c., under laws prior to June 3, 1858.

3 June, 1858, c. 85, s. 1, v. 11, p. 309.

SEC. 4723. All colored persons who enlisted in the Army during the war of the rebellion, and who are now prohibited from receiving bounty and pension on account of being borne on the rolls of their regiments as "slaves," shall be placed on the same footing, as to bounty and pension, as though they had not been slaves at the date of their enlistment.

SEC. 4724. No person in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps shall draw both a pension as an invalid, and the pay of his rank or station in the service, unless the disability for which the pension was granted be such as to occasion his employment in a lower grade, or in the civil branch of the service.

SEC. 4725. All those surviving widows and minor children who have been allowed five years' half-pay, under the provisions of any general laws passed prior to the third day of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, are granted a continuance of such half-pay, to commence from the date of the last payment under the respective acts of Congress granting the same, and on the terms and limitations provided in the following section.

To widow for life, and to children under sixteen, &c.

Ibid.

SEC. 4726. Such half-pay is granted to such widows during life, and, where there is no widow, to the children, while under the age of sixteen years; but in case of the remarriage or death of any such widow, the half-pay shall go to the children of the decedent on account of whose services it is claimed, while such children are under sixteen years of age, and no longer.

Half-monthly pay not to exceed that of lieutenant-colonel.

Ibid.

SEC. 4727. The half-pay of such widows and children shall be half the monthly pay of the officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates of the infantry of the Regular Army, and no more, and no greater sum shall be allowed to any such widow or minor children than the half-pay of a lieutenant-colonel. But the two preceding sections shall not be construed to apply to or embrace the case of any person receiving a pension for life on the third day of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight; and, wherever half-pay has been granted by any special act of Congress, and renewed or continued under the provisions of those sections, the same shall continue from the date above named: *Provided*, That pensions under this and the two preceding sections, shall be varied in accordance with the provisions of section four thousand seven hundred and twelve of this Title.

Navy pensions.

11 Aug., 1848, c. 155, ss. 2, 3, v. 9, p. 283.

SEC. 4728. If any officer, warrant or petty officer, seaman, engineer, first, second, or third assistant engineer, fireman or coal-heaver of the Navy or any marine has been disabled prior to the fourth day of March eighteen hundred and sixty-one by reason of any injury received or disease contracted in the service and line of duty, he shall be entitled to receive during the continuance of his disability a pension proportionate to the degree of his disability not exceeding half the monthly pay of his rank as it existed in January eighteen hundred and thirty-five. But the pension of a chief-engineer shall be the same as that of a lieutenant of the Navy; the pension of a first assistant engineer the same as that of a lieutenant of marines; the pension of a second or third assistant engineer the same as that of a forward officer; the pension of a fireman or coal-heaver the same as that of a seaman; but an engineer, fireman or coal-heaver shall not be entitled to any pension by reason of a disability incurred prior to the thirty-first day of August eighteen hundred and forty-two.

SEC. 4729. If any person referred to in the preceding section has died in the service, of injury received or disease contracted under the conditions therein stated, his widow shall be entitled to receive half the monthly pay to which the deceased was entitled at the date of his death; and in case of her death or marriage, the child or children under sixteen years of age shall be entitled to the pension. But the rate of pension herein allowed shall be governed by the pay of the Navy as it existed in January, eighteen hundred and thirty-five; and the pension of the widow of a chief engineer shall be the same as that of a widow of a lieutenant in the Navy; the pension of the widow of a first assistant engineer shall be the same as that of the widow of a lieutenant of marines; the pension of the widow of a second or third assistant engineer the same as that of the widow of a forward officer; the pension of the widow of a fireman or coal-heaver shall be the same as that of the widow of a seaman. But the rate of pension prescribed by this and the preceding section shall be varied from and after the twenty-fifth day of July eighteen hundred and sixty-six in accordance with the provisions of section four thousand seven hundred and twelve of this Title; and the widow of an engineer, fireman, or coal-heaver shall not be entitled to any pension by reason of the death of her husband if his death was prior to the thirty-first day of August eighteen hundred and forty-two.

Naval pensions to widows and children.

Ibid., ss. 1, 2, 3.

SEC. 4730. Any officer, non-commissioned officer, musician or private, whether of the Regular Army or volunteers disabled by reason of injury received or disease contracted while in the line of duty in actual service in the war with Mexico, or in going to or returning from the same, who received an honorable discharge, shall be entitled to a pension proportionate to his disability, not exceeding for total disability half the pay of his rank at the date at which he received the wound or contracted the disease which resulted in such disability. But no pension shall exceed half the pay of a lieutenant-colonel.

Pensions to soldiers of Mexican war.

13 May, 1846, c. 16, s. 7, v. 9, p. 10.

SEC. 4731. If any officer or other person referred to in the preceding section has died or shall hereafter die by reason of any injury received or disease contracted under the circumstances therein set forth, his widow shall be entitled to receive the same pension as the husband would have been entitled to had he been totally disabled; and in case of her death or remarriage, the child or children of such officer or other person referred to in the preceding section, while under the age of sixteen years, shall be entitled to receive the pension. But the rate of pension prescribed by this and the preceding section shall be varied after the twenty-fifth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-six in accordance with the provisions of section four thousand seven hundred and twelve of this Title.

Widow and children of Mexican war pensioners.

3 March, 1873, c. 234, s. 18, v. 17, p. 572.

SEC. 4732. The widows and children under sixteen years of age of the officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates of the regulars, militia, and volunteers of the war of one thousand eight hundred and twelve and the various Indian wars since one thousand seven hundred and ninety who remained at the date of their death in the military service of the United States, or who received an honorable discharge and have died or shall hereafter die of injury received or disease contracted in the service and in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive half the monthly pay to which the deceased was entitled at the time he received the injury or contracted the disease which resulted in his death. But no half-pay pension shall exceed the half-pay of a lieutenant-colonel and such half-pay pension shall be varied after the twenty-fifth day of July one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six in accordance with the provisions of section four thousand seven hundred and twelve of this Title.

Widows and children of pensioners of war of 1812 and Indian wars.

14 Feb., 1871, c. 50, v. 16, p. 411.

SEC. 4733. All pensioners whose names are now on the pension-roll or who are entitled to restoration to the roll under any act of Congress, shall be entitled to the continuance of such pensions under the provisions and limitations of this Title, and to such further increase of pension as is herein provided.

Continuance of pensions.

Pensions not to be withheld.

20 May, 1836, c. 77, v. 5, p. 31.

Time for which a widow shall not receive a pension.

30 April, 1844, c. 15, v. 5, p. 657.

Pensions to certain soldiers and sailors of the war of 1812.

14 Feb., 1871, c. 50, s. 1, v. 16, p. 411.

Pensions to be at what rate, &c.

Ibid., s. 2.

Pensions to surviving widows of officers, &c., of war of 1812.

Ibid., s. 1.

Proof required; names may be stricken from pension-rolls.

Ibid., s. 3.

Loss of certificate of discharge, &c.

Ibid.

Pensions to officers and seamen of revenue-cutters.

18 April, 1814, c. 65, v. 3, p. 127.

Certain claims for revolutionary pensions prohibited.

2 April, 1862, c. 53, v. 12, p. 376.

SEC. 4734. The provisions of law which allow the withholding of the compensation of any person who is in arrears shall not be construed to authorize the pension of any pensioner of the United States to be withheld.

SEC. 4735. No pension shall be granted to a widow for the same time that her husband received one.

SEC. 4736. The Secretary of the Interior is directed to place on the pension-roll the names of the surviving officers and enlisted and drafted men, including militia and volunteers, of the military and naval service of the United States, who served sixty days in the war with Great Britain of eighteen hundred and twelve, and were honorably discharged, and such other officers and soldiers as may have been personally named in any resolution of Congress for any specific service in that war, although their term of service may have been less than sixty days, subject, however, to the provisions of section forty-seven hundred and sixteen.

SEC. 4737. Pensions, under the preceding section, shall be at the rate of eight dollars per month, and shall be paid to the persons entitled thereto for the term of their lives, from and after the fourteenth day of February, eighteen hundred and seventy-one. But that section shall not apply to any person who is receiving a pension at the rate of eight dollars or more per month; nor to any person who is receiving a pension less than eight dollars per month, except for the difference between the pension now received and eight dollars per month.

SEC. 4738. The surviving widows of such persons as are embraced within the provisions of the two preceding sections, shall be allowed, on the conditions and limitations therein expressed, the same pension that such persons themselves would have been entitled to receive thereunder if living on the fourteenth day of February, eighteen hundred and seventy-one: *Provided, however,* Such widows were married to the husbands, on account of whose services the pension is claimed, prior to the treaty of peace which terminated the war of eighteen hundred and twelve, and have not remarried.

SEC. 4739. Before the name of any person is placed upon the pension-roll under the three preceding sections, proof shall be made, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe, that the applicant is entitled to a pension under the provisions of the sections herein cited; and the Secretary of the Interior shall cause to be stricken from the pension-roll the name of any person whenever it appears, by proof satisfactory, that such name was put upon such roll through false or fraudulent representations.

SEC. 4740. The loss of a certificate of discharge shall not deprive an applicant of the benefits of sections forty-seven hundred and thirty-six, forty-seven hundred and thirty-seven, and forty-seven hundred and thirty-eight, but other proof of services performed and of an honorable discharge, if deemed satisfactory, shall be sufficient.

SEC. 4741. The officers and seamen of the revenue-cutters of the United States, who have been or may be wounded or disabled in the discharge of their duty while co-operating with the Navy by order of the President, shall be entitled to be placed on the Navy pension-list, at the same rate of pension and under the same regulations and restrictions as are provided by law for the officers and seamen of the Navy.

SEC. 4742. From and after the second day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, no claim for a pension, or for an increase of pension, shall be allowed in favor of the children or other descendants of any person who served in the war of the Revolution, or of the widow of such person, when such person or his widow died without having established a claim to a pension.

SEC. 4743. In all cases where a pension has been granted to any officer or soldier of the Revolution in his life-time, the evidence upon which such pension was granted shall be conclusive of the service of such officer or soldier in the application of any widow, or woman who may have been the widow, of such officer or soldier, for a pension; and upon proof by her that she was married to any such officer or soldier, and that she is a widow, she shall thereupon be placed upon the pension-rolls at the same rate that such officer or soldier received during his life-time.

SEC. 4744. The Commissioner of Pensions is authorized to detail, from time to time, clerks in his office to investigate suspected attempts at fraud on the Government, through and by virtue of the provisions of the pension-laws, and to aid in prosecuting any person so offending, with such additional compensation as is customary in cases of special service; and any person so detailed shall have the power to administer oaths and take affidavits in the course of any such investigation.

SEC. 4745. Any pledge, mortgage, sale, assignment, or transfer of any right, claim, or interest in any pension which has been, or may hereafter be, granted, shall be void and of no effect; and any person acting as attorney to receive and receipt for money for and in behalf of any person entitled to a pension shall, before receiving such money, take and subscribe an oath, to be filed with the pension-agent, and by him to be transmitted, with the vouchers now required by law, to the proper accounting officer of the Treasury, that he has no interest in such money by any pledge, mortgage, sale, assignment, or transfer, and that he does not know or believe that the same has been so disposed of to any person.

SEC. 4746. Every person who knowingly or willfully in anywise procures the making or presentation of any false or fraudulent affidavit concerning any claim for pension, or payment thereof, or pertaining to any other matter within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Pensions, or who knowingly or willfully presents or causes to be presented at any pension-agency any power of attorney or other paper required as a voucher in drawing a pension, which paper bears a date subsequent to that on which it was actually signed or executed, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or by both.

SEC. 4747. No sum of money due, or to become due, to any pensioner, shall be liable to attachment, levy, or seizure by or under any legal or equitable process whatever, whether the same remains with the Pension-Office, or any officer or agent thereof, or is in course of transmission to the pensioner entitled thereto, but shall inure wholly to the benefit of such pensioner.

SEC. 4748. That the Commissioner of Pensions, on application being made to him in person, or by letter, by any claimant or applicant for pension, bounty-land, or other allowance required by law to be adjusted or paid by the Pension-Office, shall furnish such person, free of all expense, all such printed instructions and forms as may be necessary in establishing and obtaining said claim; and on the issuing of a certificate of pension or of a bounty-land warrant, he shall forthwith notify the claimant or applicant, and also the agent or attorney in the case, if there be one, that such certificate has been issued, or allowance made, and the date and amount thereof.

SEC. 4749. No soldier or sailor shall be taken or held to be a deserter from the Army or Navy who faithfully served according to his enlistment until the nineteenth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, and who, without proper authority or leave first obtained, quit his command or refused to serve after that date; but nothing herein contained shall operate as a remission of any forfeiture incurred by any such soldier or sailor of his pension; but this section shall be construed solely as a removal of any disability such soldier or sailor may have incurred by the loss of his citizenship in consequence of his desertion.

Evidence necessary to enable widow of revolutionary soldier to get pension.

1 July, 1848, Res. No. 13, v. 9, p. 336.

Special service in investigating suspected attempts at fraud.

3 March, 1873, c. 234, s. 30, v. 17, p. 575.

Any pledge or transfer of pension void.

Ibid., s. 32.

Penalty for false affidavit and post-dating vouchers, &c.

Ibid., s. 33.

Pension not liable to attachment, &c.

Ibid.

Commissioner to furnish printed instructions, free of charge.

Ibid., s. 22, p. 573.

Certain soldiers and sailors not to be deemed deserters, &c.

19 July, 1867, c. 28, v. 15, p. 14.

Secretary of Navy trustee of Navy pension-fund. SEC. 4750. The Secretary of the Navy shall be trustee of the Navy pension-fund.

10 July, 1832, c. 194, s. 1, v. 4, p. 572.

Penalties, how to be sued for, &c. SEC. 4751. All penalties and forfeitures incurred under the provisions of sections twenty-four hundred and sixty-one, twenty-four hundred and sixty-two, and twenty-four hundred and sixty-three, Title "THE PUBLIC LANDS," shall be sued for, recovered, distributed, and accounted for, under the directions of the Secretary of the Navy, and shall be paid over, one-half to the informers, if any, or captors, where seized, and the other half to the Secretary of the Navy for the use of the Navy pension-fund; and the Secretary is authorized to mitigate, in whole or in part, on such terms and conditions as he deems proper, by an order in writing, any fine, penalty, or forfeiture so incurred.

Prize-money accruing to the United States to remain a fund for pensions. SEC. 4752. All money accruing or which has already accrued to the United States from sale of prizes shall be and remain forever a fund for the payment of pensions to the officers, seamen, and marines who may be entitled to receive the same; and if such fund be insufficient for the purpose, the public faith is pledged to make up the deficiency; but if it should be more than sufficient, the surplus shall be applied to the making of further provision for the comfort of the disabled officers, seamen, and marines. [See § 4630.]

17 July, 1862, c. 204, s. 11, v. 12, p. 607.

Naval pension-fund, how to be invested.

1 July, 1864, Res. No. 62, v. 13, p. 414.

SEC. 4753. The Secretary of the Navy, as trustee of the naval pension-fund, is directed to cause to be invested in the registered securities of the United States, on the first day of January and the first day of July of each year, so much of such fund then in the Treasury of the United States as may not be required for the payment of naval pensions for the then current fiscal year; and upon the requisition of the Secretary, so much of the fund as may not be required for such payment of pensions accruing during the current fiscal year shall be held in the Treasury on the days above named in each year, subject to his order, for the purpose of such immediate investment; and the interest payable in coin upon the securities in which the fund may be invested, shall be so paid, when due, to the order of the Secretary of the Navy, and he is authorized and directed to exchange the amount of such interest when paid in coin, for so much of the legal currency of the United States as may be obtained therefor at the current rates of premium on gold, and to deposit the interest so converted in the Treasury to the credit of the naval pension-fund; but nothing herein contained shall be construed to interfere with the payment of naval pensions under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior, as regulated by law.

Rate of interest on naval pension-fund.

SEC. 4754. The interest on the naval pension-fund shall hereafter be at the rate of three per centum per annum in lawful money.

23 July, 1868, c. 229, s. 2, v. 15, p. 170.

Navy pensions payable from fund.

23 July, 1868, c. 229, s. 2, v. 15, p. 170.

SEC. 4755. The Navy pensions shall be paid from the Navy pension-fund, but no payments shall be made therefrom except upon appropriations authorized by Congress.

Half-rating to disabled enlisted persons serving twenty years in Navy or Marine Corps.

2 March, 1867, c. 174, s. 6, v. 14, p. 516.

11 July, 1870, c. 238, v. 16, p. 222.

SEC. 4756. There shall be paid out of the naval pension-fund to every person who, from age or infirmity, is disabled from sea-service, but who has served as an enlisted person in the Navy or Marine Corps for the period of twenty years, and not been discharged for misconduct, in lieu of being provided with a home in the Naval Asylum, Philadelphia, if he so elects, a sum equal to one-half the pay of his rating at the time he was discharged, to be paid to him quarterly, under the direction of the Commissioner of Pensions; and applications for such pension shall be made to the Secretary of the Navy, who, upon being satisfied that the applicant comes within the provisions of this section, shall certify the same to the Commissioner of Pensions, and such certificate shall be his warrant for making payment as herein authorized.

SEC. 4757. Every disabled person who has served in the Navy or Marine Corps as an enlisted man for a period not less than ten years, and not been discharged for misconduct, may apply to the Secretary of the Navy for aid from the surplus income of the naval pension-fund; and the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to convene a board of not less than three naval officers, one of whom shall be a surgeon, to examine into the condition of the applicant, and to recommend a suitable amount for his relief, and for a specified time, and upon the approval of such recommendation by the Secretary of the Navy, and certificate thereof to the Commissioner of Pensions, the amount shall be paid in the same manner as is provided in the preceding section for the payment to persons disabled by long service in the Navy; but no allowance so made shall exceed the rate of a pension for full disability corresponding to the grade of the applicant, nor, if in addition to a pension, exceed one-fourth the rate of such pension.

Serving not less than ten years, may receive what aid.

2 March, 1867, c. 174, s. 6, v. 14, p. 516.

SEC. 4758. The Secretary of the Navy shall be trustee of the privateer pension-fund.

Secretary of Navy trustee of privateer pension-fund.

10 July, 1832, c. 194, s. 1, v. 4, p. 572.—Decatur *vs.* Paulding, 14 Pet., 497.

SEC. 4759. Two per centum on the net amount, after deducting all charges and expenditures, of the prize-money arising from captured vessels and cargoes, and on the net amount of the salvage of vessels and cargoes recaptured by the private armed vessels of the United States, shall be secured and paid over to the collector or other chief officer of the customs at the port or place in the United States at which such captured or recaptured vessels may arrive; or to the consul or other public agent of the United States residing at the port or place, not within the United States, at which such captured or recaptured vessels may arrive. And the moneys arising therefrom are pledged by the Government of the United States as a fund for the support and maintenance of the widows and orphans of such persons as may be slain, and for the support and maintenance of such persons as may be wounded and disabled on board of the private armed vessels of the United States, in any engagement with the enemy, to be assigned and distributed in such manner as is or may be provided by law.

Privateer pension-fund; how derived.

26 June, 1812, c. 107, s. 17, v. 2, p. 763.

SEC. 4760. The two per centum reserved in the hands of the collectors and consuls by the preceding section, shall be paid to the Treasury, under the like regulations provided for other public money, and shall constitute a fund for the purposes provided for by that section.

To be paid into the Treasury, &c.

13 Feb., 1813, c. 22, s. 1, v. 2, p. 799.

SEC. 4761. The Secretary of the Interior is required to place on the pension-list, under the like regulations and restrictions as are used in relation to the Navy of the United States, any officer, seaman, or marine, who, on board of any private armed vessel bearing a commission of letter of marque, shall have been wounded or otherwise disabled in any engagement with the enemy, or in the line of their duty as officers, seamen, or marines of such private armed vessel; allowing to the captain a sum not exceeding twenty dollars per month; to lieutenants and sailing-master a sum not exceeding twelve dollars each per month; to marine officer, boatswain, gunner, carpenter, master's mate, and prize-masters, a sum not exceeding ten dollars each per month; to all other officers a sum not exceeding eight dollars each per month, for the highest rate of disability, and so in proportion; and to a seaman, or acting as a marine, the sum of six dollars per month, for the highest rate of disability, and so in proportion; which several pensions shall be paid from moneys appropriated for the payment of pensions.

Wounded, &c., privateersmen to be placed on pension-list.

13 Feb., 1813, c. 22, s. 2, v. 2, p. 799.

2 Aug., 1813, c. 58, v. 3, p. 86.

SEC. 4762. The commanding officer of every vessel having a commission, or letters of marque and reprisal, shall enter in his journal the name and rank of any officer, and the name of any seaman, who, during his cruise, is wounded or disabled, describing the manner and extent, as far as practicable, of such wound or disability.

Commanding officers of privateers to enter names, &c., in a journal.

13 Feb., 1813, c. 22, s. 3, v. 2, p. 800.

Transcript of journals to be transmitted to Secretary of the Navy.

Ibid., s. 4.

Pension-agents to send quarterly voucher to each pensioner, &c.

8 July, 1870, c. 225, s. 1, v. 16, p. 193.

Check to be drawn to order of each pensioner.

Ibid., s. 2, p. 194.

Pensions to be paid only to persons entitled, &c.

Ibid., s. 4.

Blanks for vouchers; notice.

Ibid., s. 5.

Certificate of pension and fee of attorney.

Ibid., s. 9, p. 195.

Pension-agent to deduct attorney's fees.

Ibid., s. 10.

Duplicates for lost checks, how issued.

19 April, 1871, c. 16, v. 17, p. 4.

SEC. 4763. Every collector shall transmit quarterly to the Secretary of the Navy a transcript of such journals as may have been reported to him, so far as it gives a list of the officers and crew, and the description of wounds and disabilities, the better to enable the Secretary to decide on claims for pensions.

SEC. 4764. Within fifteen days immediately preceding the fourth day of March, June, September, and December in each year, the several agents for the payment of pensions shall prepare a quarterly voucher for every person whose pension is payable at his agency, and transmit the same by mail, directed to the address of the pensioner named in such voucher, who, on or after the fourth day of March, June, September, and December next succeeding the date of such voucher, may execute and return the same to the agency at which it was prepared, and at which the pension of such person is due and payable.

SEC. 4765. Upon the receipt of such voucher, properly executed, and the identity of the pensioner being established and proved in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, the agent for the payment of pensions shall immediately draw his check on the proper assistant treasurer or designated depository of the United States for the amount due such pensioner, payable to his order, and transmit the same by mail, directed to the address of the pensioner entitled thereto; but any pensioner may be required, if thought proper by the Commissioner of Pensions, to appear personally and receive his pension.

SEC. 4766. Hereafter no pension shall be paid to any person other than the pensioner entitled thereto, nor otherwise than according to the provisions of this Title, and no warrant, power of attorney, or other paper executed or purporting to be executed by any pensioner to any attorney, claim-agent, broker, or other person, shall be recognized by any agent for the payment of pensions, nor shall any pension be paid thereon. But payment to persons laboring under legal disabilities may be made to the guardians of such persons in the manner herein prescribed; and pensions payable to persons in foreign countries may be made according to the provisions of existing laws.

SEC. 4767. The Secretary of the Interior shall cause suitable blanks for the vouchers mentioned in section forty-seven hundred and sixty-four to be printed and distributed to the agents for the payment of pensions, upon which he shall cause a note to be printed informing pensioners of the fact that hereafter no pension will be paid, except upon the vouchers issued as herein directed.

SEC. 4768. The Commissioner of Pensions shall forward the certificate of pensions, granted in any case, to the agent for paying pensions where such certificate is made payable, and at the same time forward therewith one of the articles of agreement filed in the case and approved by the Commissioner, setting forth the fee agreed upon between the claimant and the attorney or agent, and where no agreement is on file, as hereinbefore provided, he shall direct that a fee of ten dollars only be paid the agent or attorney. [See § 5485.1]

SEC. 4769. It shall be the duty of the agent paying such pension to deduct from the amount due the pensioner the amount of fee so agreed upon or directed by the Commissioner to be paid where no agreement is filed and approved, and to forward or cause to be forwarded to the agent or attorney of record named in such agreement, or, in case there is no agreement, to the agent prosecuting the case, the amount of the proper fee, deducting therefrom the sum of thirty cents in payment of his services in forwarding the same.

SEC. 4770. In place of original checks issued for pensions, when lost, stolen, or destroyed, disbursing officers and agents of the United States are authorized, after the expiration of six months from the date of such checks, to issue duplicate checks, and the Treasurer, assistant treasurers, and designated depositaries of the United States are directed to pay such checks, drawn in pursuance of law by such officers or agents, upon notice and proof of the loss of the original checks, under such regula-

tions in regard to their issue and payment, and upon the execution of such bonds, with sureties, to indemnify the United States, as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe. But this section shall not apply to any check exceeding in amount the sum of five hundred dollars.

SEC. 4771. In all cases of application for the payment of pensions to invalid pensioners to the fourth day of September of an odd year, the certificate of an examining surgeon duly appointed by the Commissioner of Pensions, or of a surgeon of the Army or Navy, stating the continuance of the disability for which the pension was originally granted, describing it, and the degree of such disability at the time of making the certificate, shall be required to accompany the vouchers, and a duplicate thereof shall be filed in the Office of the Commissioner of Pensions; and if in a case of continued disability it shall be stated at a degree below that for which the pension was originally granted, or was last paid, the pensioner shall only be paid for the quarter then due at the rate stated in the certificate. But where the pension was originally granted for a disability in consequence of the loss of a limb, or other essential portion of the body, or for other cause which cannot, either in whole or in part, be removed, or when a disability is certified, by competent examining surgeons, to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Pensions, to have become permanent in a degree equal to the whole rate of pension, the above certificate shall not be necessary to entitle the pensioner to payment.

SEC. 4772. Nothing in the preceding section shall be construed to prevent the Commissioner of Pensions from requiring a more frequent examination, if, in his judgment, it is necessary.

SEC. 4773. The biennial certificate of two unappointed civil surgeons shall not be accepted in any case, except upon satisfactory evidence that an examination by a commissioned or duly appointed surgeon is impracticable.

SEC. 4774. The Commissioner of Pensions is authorized to organize, at his discretion, boards of examining surgeons, not to exceed three members, and each member of a board thus organized who is actually present and makes, in connection with other members or member, an ordered or periodical examination, shall be entitled to the fee of one dollar, on the receipt of a proper certificate of such examination by the Commissioner of Pensions.

SEC. 4775. Examining surgeons duly appointed by the Commissioner of Pensions, and such other qualified surgeons as may be employed in the Pension-Office, may be required by him, from time to time, as he deems for the interests of the Government, to make special examinations of pensioners, or applicants for pension, and such examinations shall have precedence over previous examinations, whether special or biennial; but when injustice is alleged to have been done by an examination so ordered, the Commissioner of Pensions may, at his discretion, select a board of three duly appointed examining surgeons, who shall meet at a place to be designated by him, and shall review such cases as may be ordered before them on appeal from any special examination, and the decision of such board shall be final on the question so submitted thereto, provided the Commissioner approve the same. The compensation of each of such surgeons shall be three dollars, and shall be paid out of any appropriations made for the payment of pensions, in the same manner as the ordinary fees of appointed surgeons are or may be authorized to be paid.

SEC. 4776. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to appoint a duly qualified surgeon as medical referee, who, under the control and direction of the Commissioner of Pensions, shall have charge of the examination and revision of the reports of examining surgeons, and such other duties touching medical and surgical questions in the Pension-Office, as the interests of the service may demand; and his salary shall be two thousand five hundred dollars per annum. And the Secretary

Biennial examinations, &c.

3 March, 1873, c. 234, s. 34, v. 17, p. 576.

More frequent examination.

Ibid.

Biennial examinations by unappointed civil surgeons, &c.

4 July, 1864, c. 247, s. 1, v. 13, p. 387.

Boards of examining surgeons.

3 March, 1873, c. 234, s. 36, v. 17, p. 576.

Special examinations.

Ibid., s. 37.

Medical referee and examining surgeons.

Ibid., s. 38, p. 577.

of the Interior is further authorized to appoint such qualified surgeons (not exceeding four) as the exigencies of the service may require, who may perform the duties of examining surgeons when so required, and who shall be borne upon the rolls as clerks of the fourth class; but such appointments shall not increase the clerical force of said Bureau.

Appointment of
civil examining
surgeons.

Ibid., s. 35, p. 576.

SEC. 4777. The Commissioner of Pensions is empowered to appoint, at his discretion, civil surgeons to make the periodical examinations of pensioners which are or may be required by law, and to examine applicants for pension, where he deems an examination by a surgeon appointed by him necessary; and the fee for such examinations, and the requisite certificates thereof in duplicate, including postage on such as are transmitted to pension-agents, shall be two dollars, which shall be paid by the agent for paying pensions in the district within which the pensioner or claimant resides, out of any money appropriated for the payment of pensions, under such regulations as the Commissioner of Pensions may prescribe.

Pension-agents,
appointment and
term of office.

5 Feb., 1867, c. 32,
v. 14, p. 391.

2 March, 1867, c.
154, ss. 1, 2, v. 14, p. 430.

Bond of pension-
agents.

5 Feb., 1867, c. 32,
v. 14, p. 391.

Establishment of
pension-agencies.

Ibid.

SEC. 4778. The President is authorized to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, all pension-agents, who shall hold their respective offices for the term of four years, unless sooner removed or suspended, as provided by law, and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

SEC. 4779. All pension-agents shall give bond, with good and sufficient sureties, for such amount and in such form as the Secretary of the Interior may approve.

SEC. 4780. The President is authorized to establish agencies for the payment of pensions wherever, in his judgment, the public interests and the convenience of the pensioners require; but the number of pension-agencies in any State or Territory shall in no case be increased hereafter so as to exceed three, and no such agency shall be established in addition to those now existing in any State or Territory in which the whole amount of pensions paid during the fiscal year next preceding shall not have exceeded the sum of five hundred thousand dollars.

Compensation,
&c., of pension-
agents.

20 Feb., 1847, c.
13, s. 2, v. 9, p. 127.

17 July, 1862, Res.
No. 70, v. 12, p. 629.

30 June, 1864, c.
183, v. 13, p. 325.

SEC. 4781. Agents for paying pensions shall receive two per centum on all disbursements made by them to pensioners. There shall be allowed, however, over and above such compensation, to every pension-agent disbursing fifty thousand dollars annually, not exceeding five hundred dollars a year for clerk-hire, office-rent, and office-expenses; to every agent disbursing one hundred thousand dollars annually, not exceeding seven hundred and fifty dollars a year; and for every fifty thousand dollars additional, not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars a year, for like purposes. But in no case shall the aggregate amount of compensation to any one agent, paying both Army and Navy pensions, exceed four thousand dollars a year.

Additional allow-
ance.

8 July, 1870, c.
225, s. 4, v. 16, p.
194.

SEC. 4782. In addition to the compensation allowed in this Title, each pension-agent shall be allowed, as full compensation for all service, including postage required by the provisions of sections forty-seven hundred and sixty-four and forty-seven hundred and sixty-five, the sum of thirty cents, and no more, for each voucher prepared and paid by him, which amount shall be paid by the United States.

Penalty for em-
bezzlement, &c.,
by guardian.

3 March, 1873, c.
234, s. 31, v. 17, p.
575.

SEC. 4783. Every guardian having the charge and custody of the pension of his ward who embezzles the same in violation of his trust, or fraudulently converts the same to his own use, shall be punished by fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or imprisonment at hard labor for a term not exceeding five years, or both. [See § 5436.]

Pension-agents,
&c., to take affida-
vits without fee.

8 July, 1870, c.
225, s. 6, v. 16, p. 194.

SEC. 4784. Agents for the payment of pensions, and any clerks appointed by them and designated in writing for that purpose, which designation shall be returned to and filed in the office of the Commissioner of Pensions, are required, without any fee therefor, to take and certify the affidavits of all pensioners and their witnesses who may personally

appear before them for that purpose, in which case the check for the pension, when due and payable, shall be given direct to the hand of the party entitled thereto, if desired, and not mailed to his address as required by section forty-seven hundred and sixty-five.

SEC. 4785. No agent or attorney or other person shall demand or receive any other compensation for his services in prosecuting a claim for pension or bounty-land than such as the Commissioner of Pensions shall direct to be paid to him, not exceeding twenty-five dollars. [See § 5485.]

SEC. 4786. It shall be the duty of the agent or attorney of record in the prosecution of the case to cause to be filed with the Commissioner of Pensions, for his approval, duplicate articles of agreement, without additional cost to the claimant, setting forth the fee agreed upon by the parties, which agreement shall be executed in the presence of and certified by some officer competent to administer oaths. In all cases where application is made for pension or bounty-land, and no agreement is filed with and approved by the Commissioner as herein provided, the fee shall be ten dollars and no more. [See § 4768.]

SEC. 4787. Every officer, soldier, seaman, and marine, who was disabled, during the war for the suppression of the rebellion, in the military or naval service, and in the line of duty, or in consequence of wounds received or disease contracted therein, and who was furnished by the War Department, since the seventeenth day of June, eighteen hundred and seventy, with an artificial limb or apparatus for resection, or who was entitled to receive such limb or apparatus since said date, shall be entitled to receive a new limb or apparatus at the expiration of every five years thereafter, under such regulations as have been or may be prescribed by the Surgeon-General of the Army. [See § 1176.]

SEC. 4788. Every person entitled to the benefits of the preceding section may, if he so elects, receive, instead of such limb or apparatus, the money value thereof, at the following rates, namely: For artificial legs, seventy-five dollars; for arms, fifty dollars; for feet, fifty dollars; for apparatus for resection, fifty dollars.

SEC. 4789. The Surgeon-General shall certify to the Commissioner of Pensions a list of all soldiers who elect to receive money commutation instead of limbs or apparatus, with the amount due to each, and the Commissioner of Pensions shall cause the same to be paid to such soldiers in the same manner as pensions are paid.

SEC. 4790. Every person in the military or naval service who lost a limb during the war of the rebellion, but from the nature of his injury is not able to use an artificial limb, shall be entitled to the benefits of section forty-seven hundred and eighty-eight, and shall receive money commutation as therein provided.

SEC. 4791. The Secretary of War is authorized and directed to furnish to the persons embraced by the provisions of section forty-seven hundred and eighty-seven, transportation to and from their homes and the place where they may be required to go to obtain artificial limbs provided for them under authority of law.

Fees of attorney for prosecuting claims.

3 March, 1873, c. 234, s. 31, v. 17, p. 575.

2 Abb. U. S., 531.

Agreement for amount of fee to be filed.

8 July, 1870, c. 225, s. 7, v. 16, p. 194.

Artificial limbs, &c.; to be furnished every five years.

30 June, 1870, c. 179, v. 16, p. 174.

17 June, 1870, c. 132, s. 1, v. 16, p. 153.

27 July, 1868, c. 264, s. 14, v. 15, p. 237.

Commutation rates in money value for limb, &c.

17 June, 1870, c. 132, s. 1, v. 16, p. 153.

Money commutation, how to be paid.

Ibid., s. 2.

Money commutation to those who cannot use artificial limb.

Ibid., s. 3.

Transportation for persons to whom artificial limbs are furnished.

28 July, 1866, c. 305, v. 14, p. 342.