

States before the passage of this act shall be cognizable in the court of the western division of the western district of Tennessee held at Memphis, and actions or proceedings now pending at Memphis against defendants residing in said county of Hardeman may, on the application of either party, be transferred to the court at Jackson; and in case of such transfer, all papers and files therein, with copies of all journal entries, shall be transferred to the office of the clerk of the court at Jackson, and the same shall proceed in all respects as though originally commenced in said court.

Approved, January 15, 1883.

CHAP. 26.—An act to increase the fees of witnesses in the United States courts in certain cases. Jan. 15, 1883.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all persons residing west of the Mississippi River, excepting those who are by law entitled to a higher compensation, who have been or may hereafter be in attendance at Washington, District of Columbia, under subpoena or under the direction of the Department of Justice as witnesses in any of the courts of said district, in any of the cases known as star-routes prosecutions, shall be entitled to receive a total per diem of two dollars and fifty cents per day, and mileage for actual travel only to and from their place of residence, by the usual routes of travel, at the rate of seven cents per mile.

Increase of fees of witnesses in U. S. courts in certain cases.

Approved, January 15, 1883.

CHAP. 27.—An act to regulate and improve the civil service of the United States. Jan. 16, 1883.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is authorized to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, three persons, not more than two of whom shall be adherents of the same party, as Civil Service Commissioners, and said three commissioners shall constitute the United States Civil Service Commission. Said commissioners shall hold no other official place under the United States.

Civil service.

Commission.

The President may remove any commissioner; and any vacancy in the position of commissioner shall be so filled by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as to conform to said conditions for the first selection of commissioners.

Removals. Vacancies, how filled.

The commissioners shall each receive a salary of three thousand five hundred dollars a year. And each of said commissioners shall be paid his necessary traveling expenses incurred in the discharge of his duty as a commissioner.

Compensation.

SEC. 2. That it shall be the duty of said commissioners:

Duties.

FIRST. To aid the President, as he may request, in preparing suitable rules for carrying this act into effect, and when said rules shall have been promulgated it shall be the duty of all officers of the United States in the departments and offices to which any such rules may relate to aid, in all proper ways, in carrying said rules, and any modifications thereof, into effect.

Rules.

SECOND. And, among other things, said rules shall provide and declare, as nearly as the conditions of good administration will warrant, as follows:

First, for open, competitive examinations for testing the fitness of applicants for the public service now classified or to be classified hereunder. Such examinations shall be practical in their character, and so far as may be shall relate to those matters which will fairly test the

Competitive examinations.