as relates to their company by the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, then this act shall be void.

Approved, August 3, 1854.

Aug. 3, 1854.

Chap. CCIII. — *An Act to Incorporate the National Hotel Company of Washington City.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That George H. Calvert, Charles B. Calvert, Roger C. Weightman, Philip Otterback, John Withers, Richard H. Stuart, and Joseph Bryan, and those who may hereafter become members of the company hereinafter mentioned, and their successors, be, and they are hereby, created and declared to be a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of the National Hotel Company of Washington City; and, by the name aforesaid, to have perpetual succession, with power to sue and be sued, and to make and use a common seal, and to make and repeal rules and by-laws for the good government of said company; and also to hold, use, and enjoy, in fee simple, or for any lesser estate, the lots and parcels of ground and premises, situated in the city of Washington, being lots 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and parts of lots 7, and 14, in square 491, on the plat of said city, upon which are now erected the house or buildings and appurtenances known and denominated as the National Hotel; and also any additional lots or parts of lots, adjoining the said property, which may be hereafter acquired by said company, and also the improvements, fixtures, conveniences, and advantages erected on said lots or parcels of ground appurtenant thereto.

Corporators.

Title.

Powers.

Capital.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the capital stock of said company shall be five hundred thousand dollars, to be divided into five thousand shares of one hundred dollars each, and shall be distributed among the parties interested in the said lots of ground and premises, in such manner as shall be agreed upon between them; and every person, copartnership, or corporation, who is or shall be a proprietor of one or more shares, shall, by virtue thereof be a member of said corporation, and shall be entitled, at all meetings of the stockholders for the election of officers, or for any other purpose, to one vote, in person or by proxy, for every share of the stock so held.

Elections.

Officers.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the affairs of the said company shall be conducted by a president and six directors, to be elected by the stockholders present, or a majority in amount thereof, on the first Monday of November in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and on the first Monday of November in each succeeding year, or within thirty days thereafter, and shall continue in office for one year and until successors are chosen; and that the election in November next shall be held by the persons named in the first section of this act, or a majority of them, and every subsequent election shall be held by the president and directors of said company.

Powers and duties of directors.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said president and directors shall have power to fill all vacancies which shall occur in their own body during their continuance in office, and to prescribe the evidence of ownership and mode of transfer of shares of stock in said company; and they shall keep full records of their proceedings, which shall be open to the inspection of the stockholders at all times, and shall report at least annually, a statement of their affairs to the stockholders, and shall declare dividends of the profits on any part thereof, at their discretion, and generally may exercise all the power and privileges of the corporation necessary or proper to promote the objects thereof.

Shares to be personal estate.

Meetings of stockholders.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the shares of the capital stock of said company shall be deemed personal estate, and that special meetings of the stockholders may be called by the president and directors, or

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by any number, not less than one third in amount of shares of the stockholders, at which meeting members present, and representing a majority of the whole capital stock, shall be a quorum for the transaction of business: and the stockholders at such meetings, or at any general annual meeting, where such majority of stock is represented, shall have full power to alter or repeal any by-law or regulation made by the president and directors, and may make new rules and by-laws, which shall be binding on the said president and directors: *Provided*, That the same be not contrary to the provisions of this act.

Taxation.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to exempt the property of said corporation from such taxation as similar property, belonging to any other individual or corporation, is subject to.

Banking forbidden.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to authorize the said company to exercise banking privileges, or to issue any note in the form of a bank note, or certificate payable to bearer.

Stockholders liable for the debts.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That each of the stockholders in the said National Hotel Company of Washington City shall be held liable in his or her individual capacity for all the debts and liabilities of the said company, however contracted or incurred, to be recovered by suit as other debts or liabilities, before the court or tribunal having jurisdiction of the case.

This act subject to repeal, &c.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That it may be lawful for Congress hereafter to alter, amend, change, or repeal the foregoing act.

APPROVED, August 3, 1854.

CHAP. CCV.—*An Act for the Relief of William J. McElhiney, E. P. Matthews, and Lawrence Cribben.*

Aug. 3, 1854.

Wm. J. McElhiney, E. P. Matthews, and L. Cribben, are severally authorized to enter certain lands now in their possession, upon certain conditions.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That William J. McElhiney, E. P. Matthews, and Lawrence Cribben, shall be, and they are hereby, respectively authorized to enter the portions of the southeast fractional quarter of fractional section ten, and the southwest fractional quarter of fractional section eleven, west of the St. Charles Commons, in township forty-six north, of range four east, in the district of lands subject to sale at St. Louis, Missouri, now in possession of each of them, upon producing proof to the satisfaction of the land officers for said district, of the extent of their possessions, respectively, in said fractional sections, and paying therefor the minimum price of the public lands; and, upon such proof and payment being made, certificates and patents shall be issued therefor, as in other cases of the sale of public lands.

When patent to issue therefor.

APPROVED, Aug. 3, 1854.

CHAP. CCVI.—*An Act for the Relief of Mrs. Helen Mackay, Widow of the late Colonel Æneas Mackay, Deputy Quartermaster-General United States Army.*

Aug. 3, 1854.

$6,537.09 to be paid to widow Mackay as commissions for disbursements made by her husband before Sept. 30, 1838.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of six thousand five hundred and thirty-seven dollars and nine cents be paid to Mrs. Helen Mackay, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, the same being allowance of commissions for disbursements of special appropriations by her late husband, Colonel Æneas Mackay, prior to the thirtieth September, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

APPROVED, Aug. 3, 1854.