

transferred to special board of trustees.

Powers and duties of new board.

Term of office of trustees.

Vacancies.

"An act providing for the education of colored children in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, District of Columbia, and for other purposes," approved May twenty-first, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, be, and the same are hereby, transferred to Daniel Breed, Sayles J. Bowen, and Zenas C. Robbins, and their successors in office, who are hereby created a board of trustees of the schools for colored children in the cities aforesaid, and who shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties conferred upon and required of the trustees of public schools in the said cities of Washington and Georgetown by the aforesaid act.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the before-named trustees shall hold their offices for the respective terms of one, two, and three years, to be determined by lot, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior, on the first day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and annually on that day thereafter, to appoint from among the residents of the said cities a trustee in place of the one whose term has expired or is about to expire. And the Secretary of the Interior is also authorized to fill vacancies in said board of trustees whenever, from any cause, such vacancies may occur.

APPROVED, July 11, 1862.

July 12, 1862.  
1862, ch. 120.  
*Ante*, p. 489.

First meeting of commissioners on Pacific railroad and telegraph, to be held in Chicago.

Notice.

CHAP. CLIV.—*An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to aid in the Construction of a Railroad and Telegraph Line from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, and to secure to the Government the Use of the same for Postal, Military, and other Purposes," approved, July 2, 1862.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the first meeting of the commissioners named in the act entitled "An act to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, and to secure to the government the use of the same for postal, military, and other purposes," approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and of the five commissioners directed by said act to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, shall be held at Bryan Hall, in the city of Chicago, in the State of Illinois, on the first Tuesday of September next, at twelve o'clock, at noon. A notice of said meeting, to be signed by at least ten of the commissioners named in said act, shall be published at least once a week during the six successive weeks commencing on the twentieth of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two in one daily newspaper in each of the cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis, and no other notice of said meeting shall be requisite.

APPROVED, July 12, 1862.

July 12, 1862.  
1862, ch. 54.  
*Ante*, p. 376.

Oath, &c., may be made by whom.

Minors.

Non-residents.

CHAP. CLV.—*An Act Supplementary to the "Act for the Release of Certain Persons held to Service or Labor in the District of Columbia," approved April sixteen, eighteen hundred and sixty-two.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the oath or affirmation required by the second section of the act entitled "An act for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia," to verify the statements or petitions in writing filed before the commissioners, under the act aforesaid, of persons holding claim to service or labor against persons of African descent, freed and discharged therefrom, under the act aforesaid, may in all cases in which the persons holding claims, as aforesaid, are infants or minors, be made by the guardian or by any other person, whether separately or jointly, having the custody, management, or control by law of the person and property of such infants or minors; and that in all cases in which the persons holding claims as aforesaid are non-residents of the District of Columbia, or resident absentees, the oath or



affirmation required as aforesaid may be made by the attorney or agent of said non-resident or resident absentees; and in all cases in which the statements or petitions, required as aforesaid, of persons in the military or naval service of the United States, shall have been or may be hereafter verified before any commander of any military post, or of any officer having a separate command of any military force in the field, or before any captain, commander, or lieutenant commanding in the navy, the same shall be received and deemed valid, to all intents and purposes, as fully as if the verification had been or were made before any officer competent by law to take and administer oaths and affirmations: *Provided*, That the commissioners shall be satisfied that, at the time of the verification aforesaid, the person making the same was employed in the military or naval service of the United States within the jurisdiction of a rebellious State or Territory, and unable to make the oath or affirmation required, as aforesaid, before any officer authorized by law to take or administer the same, holding allegiance to the United States.

Persons in the military or naval service.

Proviso.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person having claim to the service or labor of any person or persons in the District of Columbia by reason of African descent, shall neglect or refuse to file with the clerk of the circuit court of the District of Columbia the statement in writing, or schedule provided in the ninth section of the act approved April sixteen, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, to which this is supplementary, then it shall be lawful for the person or persons, whose services are claimed as aforesaid, to file such statement in writing or schedule setting forth the particular facts mentioned in said ninth section; and the said clerk shall receive and record the same as provided in said section, on receiving fifty cents each therefor.

If any person, having claim to the service, &c., of any slave, neglects to file claim, &c., such slave may file claim.

Claim to be received.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever the facts set forth in the said statement or schedule shall be found by the commissioners to be true, the said clerk and his successors in office shall prepare, sign, and deliver certificates, as prescribed in the tenth section of the act to which this is supplementary, to such person or persons as shall file their statements in pursuance of the foregoing section, in all respects the same as if such statements were filed by the person having claim to their service or labor.

Clerk to issue certificate, if facts in claim are found to be true.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That all persons held to service or labor under the laws of any State, and who at any time since the sixteenth day of April, anno Domini eighteen hundred and sixty-two, by the consent of the person to whom such service or labor is claimed to be owing, have been actually employed within the District of Columbia, or who shall be hereafter thus employed, are hereby declared free, and forever released from such servitude, anything in the laws of the United States or of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

Slaves in any State employed in District of Columbia after April 16, 1862, to be free.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That in all judicial proceedings in the District of Columbia there shall be no exclusion of any witness on account of color.

Color not to exclude witness in the District of Columbia.

APPROVED, July 12, 1862.

CHAP. CLVI.—*An Act relating to Trust Funds of several Indian Tribes invested by the Government in certain State Bonds abstracted from the Custody of the late Secretary of the Interior.*

July 12, 1862.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and hereby is, directed to cause to be entered upon the proper books of his department the following credits to the Indian tribes herein named, to wit: To the Delawares the sum of four hundred and twenty-three thousand nine hundred and ninety dollars and twenty-six cents; to the Iowas the sum of sixty-six thousand seven hundred and thirty-five

Credits to be given to certain Indian tribes for bonds stolen.

Delawares.

Iowas.