Real estate not to exceed, &c.

real estate held by said corporation shall not exceed in value the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Officers of corporation.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation and body politic shall have full power to appoint from their own body a president and such other officers as they may deem necessary for the purposes of their creation; and in case of the death, resignation, or refusal to serve, of any of their number, the remaining members shall elect and appoint other persons in lieu of those whose places may have been vacated; and the said corporation shall have full power and all the rights of opening and keeping a hospital in the city of Washington for the care of such sick and invalid persons as may place themselves under the treatment and care of the said corporation.

Vacancies.

Powers.

By-laws.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation shall also have and enjoy full power and authority to make such by-laws, rules, and regulations, as may be necessary for the general accomplishment of the objects of said hospital: *Provided*, That they be not inconsistent with the laws in force in the District of Columbia: *And provided, further*, That this act shall be liable to be amended, altered, or repealed, at the pleasure of Congress.

Proviso.

Act may be altered, &c.

APPROVED, April 8, 1864.

April 8, 1864.

CHAP. LI. — *An Act concerning Notaries Public for the District of Columbia.*

Notaries public in the District of Columbia; appointment, term of office, number.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notaries public for the district of Columbia may be appointed by the supreme court of said district, whose term of office shall be five years, and who may be removed by said court for cause. There shall be no new appointment of a notary public until the number in this district is reduced to twenty-five; and when the number is so reduced, as vacancies thereafter occur, they may be filled by said court.

Oath, bond.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That each notary public hereafter appointed, before entering upon the duties of his office, shall take an oath faithfully to discharge the same, and shall give bond to the United States in the sum of two thousand dollars, with security to be approved by the said supreme court, or a judge thereof, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office. And the said court shall, with reasonable dispatch, by a general order to be published in one or more newspapers printed in the said district, require all persons now holding the commission of notary public in said district to give new bond, as hereinbefore provided for, within a short time to be prescribed therein; and all such persons failing to comply therewith shall be stricken from the list of notaries.

Present notaries to give bond, or lose office.

Authority of notaries public.

Foreign bills.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That notaries public shall have authority to demand acceptance and payment of foreign bills of exchange, and to protest the same for non-acceptance and non-payment; and to exercise such other powers and duties as, by the law of nations, and according to commercial usages, or for use and effect beyond the jurisdiction of the said district, as, according to the law of any state or territory of the United States, or any foreign government in amity with the United States, may be performed by notaries public.

Inland bills, &c.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That notaries public may also demand acceptance of inland bills of exchange, and payment thereof, and of promissory notes, and may protest the same for non-acceptance or non-payment, as the case may require.

Acknowledgments, oaths, &c.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That each notary public shall have power to take and to certify the acknowledgment or proof of powers of attorney, mortgages, deeds, and other instruments of writing, the acknowledgment of any conveyance, or other instrument of writing executed by any married woman, to take depositions, and to administer

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oaths and affirmations in all matters incident or belonging to the duties of his office, and to take affidavits to be used before any court, judge, or officer within this district.

Record. Certified copies.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That each notary public shall keep a fair record of all his official acts, except such as are mentioned in the fifth section of this act; and when required shall give a certified copy of any record in his office to any person, upon payment of the fees therefor.

Notarial seal.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That each notary public, before he acts as such, shall provide a notarial seal, with which he shall authenticate all his official acts, which seal, together with his records and official documents, shall not be liable to be seized on by any execution. He shall deposit an impression of his official seal in the office of the clerk of the supreme court of said district.

To be exempt from execution.

Records in case of death, resignation, &c.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That on the death, resignation, or removal from office of any notary public, his records, together with all his official papers, shall be deposited in the office of the clerk of the supreme court of said district.

Original protest to be prima facie evidence of facts stated therein.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the original protest of a notary public, under his hand and official seal, of any bill of exchange or promissory note for non-acceptance or non-payment, stating the presentment by him of such bill of exchange or note for acceptance or payment, and the non-acceptance or non-payment thereof, and the service of notice on any or all of the parties to such bill of exchange or promissory note, and specifying the mode of giving such notice, and the reputed place of residence of the party to whom the same was given, and the post-office nearest thereto, shall be *prima facie* evidence of the facts contained therein. The certificate of a notary public, under his hand and seal of office, drawn from his record, stating the protest and the facts therein recorded, shall be evidence of the facts in like manner as the original protest.

Certificate to be like evidence.

Fees of notaries public.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the fees of notaries public shall be as follows: For each certificate and seal, fifty cents; taking depositions or other writings, for each one hundred words, ten cents; administering an oath, fifteen cents; taking acknowledgment of a deed or power of attorney, with certificate thereof, fifty cents; every protest of a bill of exchange or promissory note, and recording the same, one dollar and seventy-five cents; each notice of protest, ten cents; each demand for acceptance or payment, if accepted or paid, one dollar, to be paid by the party accepting or paying the same; each noting of protest, one dollar. And any notary public who shall take a higher fee than is prescribed by this act shall pay a fine of one hundred dollars and be removed from office by the said supreme court.

Penalty for taking higher fees.

Repealing clause.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

APPROVED, April 8, 1864.

CHAP. LII. — *An Act to authorize the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind to confer Degrees.* April, 8, 1864.

Columbia Institution for the deaf and dumb and the blind may confer degrees.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the board of directors of the Columbia Institution for the instruction of the deaf and dumb and the blind be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to grant and confirm such degrees in the liberal arts and sciences to such pupils of the institution, or others, who, by their proficiency in learning or other meritorious distinction they shall think entitled to them, as are usually granted and conferred in colleges; and to grant to such graduates diplomas or certificates, sealed and signed in such manner as said board of directors may determine, to authenticate and perpetuate the memory of such graduation.

APPROVED, April 8, 1864.