Wilful injury to the property of the company, punished by fine, or, &c.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall wilfully do or cause to be done an[y] act or acts whatever, whereby any building, structure, or other work, or any engine, car, or machine, or other property appertaining to said railroad shall be injured, impaired, or destroyed, or stopped, the person or persons so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof by any court of competent jurisdiction shall be punished by a fine, at the discretion of the court, of not more than five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment of not more than two years, or both, at the discretion of the court, and also forfeit and pay to the said company, its successors and assigns, the amount of damages sustained by means of such offences, to be recovered by said company with costs of suit by any action of debt or case.

Damages.

Company not to grant exclusive right to carry freight or passengers.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That said company shall not grant to any railroad or other corporation the exclusive right to transfer passengers or freight over said railroad; but any privilege granted to one corporation shall be extended to all who may make application for such privilege on the same terms, conditions, and rates, and shall not sell, transfer, or lease their corporate rights to any company that will not check baggage or commute fares with all connecting railroads upon the terms specified in this section.

Equal privileges to all.

Corporate rights not to be sold to, &c.

Road when to be commenced and completed.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation shall, as soon as practicable after the election of directors, as hereinbefore provided, so commence and prosecute the work of constructing and equipping said railroad that it shall be fully completed and equipped in three years from and after the first board of directors have been elected.

Congress may regulate fares.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That Congress shall have the right to regulate the rate of fares collected by said company from passengers and the rate of charges for transporting freight; and all property owned by said company shall be subject to taxation by the proper municipal authority.

Taxation.

Act may be altered, &c.

Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That this act may be at any time amended or repealed.

Approved, March 29, 1869.

April 3, 1869.

CHAP. IX. — *An Act to abolish the Office of Chief of Staff to the General of the Army.*

Office of chief of staff to the General of the army abolished.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the office of chief of staff with the rank of brigadier-general to the General commanding the army be, and the same is hereby, abolished.

Repealing clause.

Sec. 2. *And be further enacted*, That all laws and parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Approved, April 3, 1869.

April 5, 1869.

1867, ch. 154. Vol. xiv. p. 430.

CHAP. X. — *An Act to amend "An Act regulating the Tenure of certain civil Offices."*

First and second sections of the act of 1867, ch. 154, repealed.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first and second sections of an act entitled "An act regulating the tenure of certain civil offices," passed March two, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, be, and the same are hereby, repealed; and in lieu of said repealed sections the following are hereby enacted:

Persons holding civil offices, by consent of Senate, to hold for the term of their appointment, unless, &c.

That every person holding any civil office to which he has been or hereafter may be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and who shall have become duly qualified to act therein, shall be entitled to hold such office during the term for which he shall have been appointed, unless sooner removed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, or by the appointment, with the like advice and consent, of a successor in his place, except as herein otherwise provided.

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