

more than four hundred feet outside of Bird Island pier, and to erect and maintain an inlet pier therefrom, said inlet pier to be located not more than four hundred feet outside of said Bird Island pier.

APPROVED, April 20, 1870.

CHAP. LIX. — *An Act to amend the Usury Laws of the District of Columbia.*

April 22, 1870.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the rate of interest upon judgments or decrees, and upon the loan or forbearance of any money, goods, or things in action, shall continue to be six dollars upon one hundred dollars for one year, and after that rate for a greater or less sum, or for a longer or shorter time, except as hereinafter provided.

Rate of interest in the District of Columbia to be six per cent. per annum, except, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That in all contracts hereafter to be made it shall be lawful for the parties to stipulate or agree in writing that the rate of ten per cent. per annum, or any less sum, of interest shall be taken and paid upon every one hundred dollars of money loaned, or in any manner due and owing from any person or corporation in this District.

Parties may agree in writing to pay ten per cent. per annum or any less sum.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person or corporation in this District shall contract to receive a greater rate of interest than ten per cent. upon any contract in writing, or six per cent. upon any verbal contract, such person or corporation shall forfeit the whole of said interest so contracted to be received, and shall be entitled only to recover the principal sum due to such person or corporation.

Penalty for contracting to receive greater rate;

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person or corporation within the District of Columbia shall directly or indirectly take or receive any greater amount of interest than is provided for in this act, upon any contract or agreement whatever, it shall be lawful for the person, or his personal representative, or the corporation paying the same, to sue for and recover all the interest paid upon any such contract or agreement from the person or his personal representatives, or from the corporation receiving such unlawful interest: *Provided,* That the suit to recover back such interest shall be brought within one year after such unlawful interest shall have been paid or taken.

for receiving greater rate.

Interest paid may be recovered by a suit, if brought within a year.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to change the general laws in force in relation to banking associations organized under the act to provide a national currency secured by a pledge of United States bonds and to provide for the circulation and redemption thereof, approved June three, eighteen hundred and sixty-four.

Nothing herein to affect banking associations. 1864, ch. 106. Vol. xiii. p. 99.

APPROVED, April 22, 1870.

CHAP. LX. — *An Act to incorporate the Washington Homeopathic Medical Society.*

April 22, 1870.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Tullio S. Verdi, Gustave W. Pope, C. W. Sonnenschmidt, E. S. Kimball, and Jehu Brainerd, and their associates and successors, physicians, be, and they hereby are, made a corporation by the name of the Washington Homeopathic Medical Society, with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the duties, liabilities, and restrictions set forth in this act.

Washington Homeopathic Medical Society incorporated.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That said corporation may hold real and personal estate to the amount of twenty thousand dollars.

Estate.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the members of said society, or such of their officers or members [as they shall appoint], shall have the power to practise medicine and surgery and collect their fees within the District of Columbia.

Members may practise, &c.;

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the members of said society, or such of their officers or members as they shall appoint, shall have full

may examine candidates for membership, &c.