

affirm (as the case may be), that I will truly and faithfully receive and return the votes of such persons as are by law entitled to vote for members of council in ward No.

and that I will not knowingly receive or return the vote of any who is not legally entitled to the same, so help me God;" the said election shall be closed on the day it is begun, and the poll shall be kept open till sunset and no longer. The said commissioners in each ward, or a majority of them shall, on the next day after the election, make a list of all the votes received at said election; and the four persons having the greatest number of votes, shall be duly elected; and in all cases of an equality of votes, the commissioners shall decide, and shall make a return of the persons so elected, under their hands and seals, to the mayor, who shall cause the same to be published in the newspapers of the town; the said commissioners shall also send a duplicate return, under their hands and seals, of the persons elected, to the clerk of the common council, who shall preserve and record the same; the said common council shall judge of the legality of the election of any person who shall be returned as a member thereof, and shall have full power to pass all laws to enable them to come to a just decision upon a contested election: they shall have power to compel the attendance of the members of the council by reasonable penalties, and to pass all laws for the orderly and regular conduct of business: they may punish any member for disorderly behaviour, and with consent of three fourths of the whole council, expel a member.

SEC. 11. *Be it further enacted*, That whenever taxes upon real property, or other claims charged upon real property within the town, shall be due, and owing to the common council, and the proprietor shall fail to discharge the same, the said common council, after giving the party reasonable notice when he resides in the town, sixty days notice when he resides out of the town, and in the United States, and after six months publication in the newspapers when he resides out of the United States, shall be empowered to recover the said taxes or debts, by motion in the court of Alexandria county: *And provided*, it shall appear to the satisfaction of the court that such taxes or claims are justly due, judgment shall be granted, and an execution shall issue thereupon, with the costs of suit, against the goods and chattels of the defaulter, if any can be found within the town; if not, that the whole property upon which the tax or claim is due, shall by order of the court, be leased out at public auction for the shortest term of years that may be offered, on condition that the lessee pay the arrearages, and also the future taxes accruing during the term, and be at liberty to remove all his improvements at the expiration of the lease: *Provided always*, that the common council may prosecute any other remedy, by action, for the recovery of the said taxes and claims which is now possessed or allowed.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of any act or acts of the general assembly of Virginia, as comes within the purview of this act, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed: *Provided*, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to impair or destroy any right or remedy which the mayor and commonalty of Alexandria now possess or enjoy to or concerning any debts, claims or demands against any person or persons whatsoever; or to repeal any of the laws and ordinances of the mayor and commonalty of the said town now in force, which are not inconsistent with this act.

APPROVED, February 25, 1804.

Duties and powers of the commissioners.

Common council to judge of the legality of elections.

May make laws and rules for its own order and government.

How the taxes of absentees shall be collected.

Proviso.

Proviso.

Interfering acts of the Virginia assembly repealed.

STATUTE I.

CHAP. XVII.—*An Act relating to the recording, registering and enrolling of ships or vessels in the district of Orleans.*

Feb. 25, 1804.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any ship or vessel

Vessels belonging to citizens of the United States, residing therein, or to persons inhabiting the territory ceded to the United States by France, entitled to the benefits of vessels of the United States.

Proviso, that the collector may make alterations in the form of the oaths, &c., to make them applicable to this law.

Oath of applicant.

Inhabitants of the ceded territory residents thereof the 30th April, 1803, entitled, on certain conditions, to all the privileges, &c. of owning ships, &c. of the United States.

STATUTE I.

March 3, 1804.

Certain military pensioners of South Carolina to be placed on the books of the war office, and paid as other pensioners.

A certificate from the state of South Carolina required for entitling any person to the benefit of this

possessed of and sailing under a Spanish or French register, and belonging, on the twentieth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and three, and continuing to belong wholly to any citizen or citizens of the United States, then residing within the territories ceded to the United States, by the treaty of the thirtieth of April one thousand eight hundred and three, between the United States and the French Republic, or to any person or persons being, on the said thirtieth day of April, an inhabitant or inhabitants of the said ceded territories, and who continue to reside therein, and of which the master is a citizen of the United States, or an inhabitant as aforesaid, may be registered, enrolled and licensed in the manner prescribed by law; and being so registered, enrolled or licensed, shall be denominated and deemed a ship or vessel of the United States, and entitled to the benefits granted by any law of the United States to ships or vessels thereof. *Provided*, that it shall be lawful for the collector to whom application shall be made for a certificate of registry, enrolment or license for such ship or vessel by any citizen or inhabitant as aforesaid, to make such variations in the forms of the oaths, certificates, and licenses, as shall render them applicable to the cases herein intended to be provided for: *And provided also*, that every such inhabitant applying as aforesaid, shall, prior to his being entitled to receive such certificate of registry, enrolment, or license, deposit with the collector, the register and other papers under which such ship or vessel had been navigated; and also take and subscribe, before the collector (who is hereby authorized to administer the same) the following oath: I, A. B., do swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the United States of America, and that I do entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the king of Spain and the French Republic.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the inhabitants of the said ceded territory who were residents thereof on the thirtieth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and three, who shall take the oath aforesaid, and who continue to reside therein, or citizens of the United States residents of said ceded territory, shall be entitled to all the benefits and privileges of owning ships or vessels of the United States, to all intents and purposes, as if they were resident citizens of the United States.

APPROVED, February 25, 1804.

CHAP. XVIII.—*An Act for the relief of certain military pensioners in the state of South Carolina.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the persons to whom military pensions have been heretofore granted and paid by the state of South Carolina, in pursuance of the resolves of the United States in congress assembled, for the payment of pensions to the invalids who were wounded and disabled during the late war with Great Britain, and who have not been placed on the books, in the office of the Secretary for the department of War, shall be, and the same hereby are directed to be placed on said books, and their said pensions shall be hereafter paid by the United States, in the same manner as to other pensioners of the United States, out of the funds already appropriated for that purpose.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That in placing the names of pensioners on the books, pursuant to the directions contained in the foregoing section, the Secretary of War shall be guided by a certificate from the state of South Carolina, when the same shall be delivered to him, under the proper authentications, which certificate shall specify the names of pensioners and sums of pension; and likewise, that they