

notwithstanding: *Provided nevertheless*, that no sea letter shall be issued to any vessel which shall not at this time be furnished or entitled to a sea letter, unless such vessel shall return to some port or place in the United States or territories thereof on or before the said thirtieth day of June next: *Provided nevertheless*, that no sea letter or other document, certifying or proving any ship or vessel to be the property of a citizen or citizens of the United States, shall be issued to any vessel now abroad, which shall not at this time be furnished or entitled to a sea letter, unless such vessel shall arrive at some port or place in the United States or territories thereof, on or before the said thirtieth day of June next; and provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to operate against any such vessel or vessels that now are, or may be, prior to the said thirtieth of June, detained abroad by the authority of any foreign power.

APPROVED, March 26, 1810.

No sea letter to issue to any vessel unless such vessel return to the U. States before 30th June next.

Proviso in favour of vessels detained abroad by any foreign power.

STATUTE II.

March 30, 1810.

CHAP. XX.—*An Act making an appropriation for the purpose of trying the practical use of the Torpedo or Submarine Explosion.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a sum not exceeding five thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, payable out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to defray the expense which shall be incurred in any actual experiments, when the President of the United States shall deem it expedient to cause such experiments to be made, which shall be made under the immediate direction of the Secretary of the Navy, for the purpose of ascertaining with precision how far the torpedo or submarine explosions may be usefully employed as engines of war, who is hereby directed to report to Congress the result of the experiment with his opinion thereon.

APPROVED, March 30, 1810.

[Obsolete.]

Appropriation to defray the expenses of experiments with the torpedo as an engine of war.

STATUTE II.

March 30, 1810.

CHAP. XXI.—*An Act to make public a Road in Washington County, in the District of Columbia.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the road heretofore opened by the consent of the owners of the land over which the same passed, from the line of the district of Columbia, through the land of John Masters and John L. Naylor, to the lower bridge over the eastern branch of Potomac river, shall be, and is hereby declared to be a public highway; and shall be kept in repair, as other public roads in Washington county, in the district of Columbia, are kept in repair.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That three commissioners to be mutually appointed by the levy court of the county of Washington, in the district of Columbia, and the proprietors of the land over which the said road does or may pass or be laid out, be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners, and they, or a majority of them, are hereby authorized and empowered to review the said road, and to cause the same to be surveyed and laid out, not exceeding thirty feet in width, and to cause a plot to be made thereof, and return the same, under their hands and seals, to the clerk of Washington county, to be by him recorded among the land records of said county.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall ascertain and value the damage which any person, through whose land the said road passes, may sustain, by making the said road a public highway, and shall return to the levy court of Washington county a certificate of such valuation, the amount of which shall

Road to the lower eastern branch bridge to be opened and kept in repair.

Commissioners to be appointed by the levy court of Washington to lay out the road, and make return to the clerk of Washington county.

Damages to be ascertained by them to be paid by the county.