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June 7, 1878.

CHAP. 161.—An act making further appropriations for continuing the improvements of Galveston Harbor, State of Texas.

Appropriation. Galveston Harbor.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any moneys not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of continuing the improvements of Galveston Harbor, in the State of Texas; which improvements are now being prosecuted under the direction of the Secretary of War, and the appropriation for which is substantially exhausted; and that the said sum be expended under his direction.

Approved, June 7, 1878.

June 7, 1878.

CHAP. 162.—An act regulating the appointment of justices of the peace, commissioners of deeds, and constables within and for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

District of Columbia. Justices of the peace. Appointment. Number.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States shall nominate and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint fifteen justices of the peace within and for the District of Columbia. Said justices of the peace shall be assigned as follows: two in the city of Georgetown, one in Tennallytown, one in Brightwood, one in Uniontown, and ten in the city of Washington. Their term of office shall be four years, subject to removal for cause. They shall respectively have the jurisdiction, exercise the powers and functions, and perform the duties as now provided by law for said officers respectively.

Term.

Jurisdiction.

Unfinished business.

Said justices of the peace, shall be the successors of the justices of the peace who now hold office in said District, and shall proceed in and close up all such unfinished business of their predecessors as may be brought to their attention by any party in interest, who shall present a transcript of the same, as hereinafter provided. And in like manner they shall proceed in and close up all unfinished business of any predecessor in office appointed under this act. Upon resignation or the expiration of the term of office, they shall make, certify, and deliver transcripts of any proceeding on their docket to any party in interest, or shall deliver said docket, together with all papers in all unfinished business, to their successors in office, at their option, and account for all moneys in their hands. Upon the death or removal of any justice of the peace appointed under this act, his docket, books, and papers of office shall be delivered to his immediate successor in office.

Transcripts of unfinished business.

Succession to dockets.

Justices now in office. Term.

SEC. 2. The terms of office of all justices of the peace, now in office within and for the District of Columbia shall end on the thirtieth day after the approval of this act. They shall issue no process returnable on or after that day, and shall deposit their docket, books, papers, and records pertaining to their office in the office of the clerk of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, who shall, on demand of the parties in interest, deliver to them transcripts, duly certified, together with all papers left or filed with them by said parties in said case or proceeding.

Deposit of dockets.

Constables. Appointment. Term.

SEC. 3. The supreme court of the District shall have authority to appoint not exceeding twenty constables, who shall hold office for four years, subject to be removed by said court for cause, upon hearing. And said constables shall be the successors of the constables now holding office in the said District. The term of office of all constables now in office in said District shall end on the thirtieth day after the approval hereof, and they shall, on or before said day, return all process which may be held by them duly executed (except as hereafter provided), and pay over to the proper parties all moneys in their hands; all constables may duly execute and return all writs and processes in their hands at the time of such expiration of their term of office.

Constables now in office.

Bonds of justices and constables.

SEC. 4. The supreme court of the District of Columbia shall have the power to fix the amount and form of the bonds, and approve the same, to be given by said justices of the peace and constables, and make