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for various articles provided for by treaty stipulation for the several Indian tribes, may be diverted to other uses for the benefit of the said tribes respectively, within the discretion of the President, and with the consent of said tribes, expressed in the usual manner; and that he cause report to be made to Congress, at its next session thereafter, of his action under this provision.

Purchases in open market.

SEC. 4. No purchase of supplies for which appropriations are herein made exceeding in the aggregate five hundred dollars in value at any one time shall be made without advertisement, except in case of exigency, when purchases may be made in open market in amount not exceeding three thousand dollars.

Clerks, etc.

SEC. 5. That when not required for the purpose for which appropriated, the funds herein provided for the pay of specified employees at any agency may be used by the Secretary of the Interior for the pay of clerks or other employees at such agency, but no deficiency shall be thereby created; and when necessary, specified employees may be detailed for clerical or other service when not required for the duty for which they were engaged.

Appropriations immediately available.

SEC. 6. That so much of the appropriations herein made as may be required to pay for goods and supplies, and for transportation of the same, for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, shall be immediately available; but no such goods or supplies shall be distributed or delivered to any of said Indians prior to July first, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight.

Approved, May 27, 1878.

CHAP. 145.—An act to authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to refund certain taxes erroneously collected and for other purposes.

May 28, 1878.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to refund to any persons who have heretofore been erroneously assessed for special improvement taxes on property not belonging to them, such moneys as they shall be found to have paid as taxes upon such erroneous assessment; and the said Commissioners are empowered to correct any assessment so found to have been made, and collect the tax from the rightful owners of the property.

District of Columbia.
Improvement taxes erroneously assessed.

Approved, May 28, 1878.

CHAP. 146.—An act to forbid the further retirement of United States legal-tender notes.

May 31, 1878.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act it shall not be lawful for the Secretary of the Treasury or other officer under him to cancel or retire any more of the United States legal-tender notes. And when any of said notes may be redeemed or be received into the Treasury under any law from any source whatever and shall belong to the United States, they shall not be retired cancelled or destroyed but they shall be re-issued and paid out again and kept in circulation: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall prohibit the cancellation and destruction of mutilated notes and the issue of other notes of like denomination in their stead, as now provided by law.

Legal-tender notes; retirement of, forbidden.

Reissue.

Proviso.

All acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved, May 31, 1878.