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CHAP. 28.—An act to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to the District of Columbia, and for other purposes. April 23, 1884.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sections of the Revised Statutes of the United States of America relating to the District of Columbia be, and they are hereby, amended in the following manner, that is to say:

Section five hundred and forty-five, by striking out the words "not exceeding twenty years;" so that the same shall read: R. S. D. C. 545, 66.

"SEC. 545. Any three or more persons of full age, citizens of the United States, a majority of whom shall be citizens of the District, who desire to associate themselves for benevolent, charitable, educational, literary, musical, scientific, religious, or missionary purposes, including societies formed for mutual improvement, or for the promotion of the arts, may make, sign and acknowledge, before any officer authorized to take acknowledgment of deeds in the District and file in the office of the recorder of deeds, to be recorded by him, a certificate in writing in which shall be stated— Societies; how formed.

"First. The name or title by which such society shall be known in law.

"Second. The term for which it is organized.

"Third. The particular business and objects of the society.

"Fourth. The number of its trustees, directors, or managers for the first year of its existence."

Section five hundred and forty-six, by adding at the end thereof the words "and other real and personal property the clear annual income from which shall not exceed in value twenty-five thousand dollars;" so that the same shall read: R. S. D. C. 546, 66.

"SEC. 546. Upon filing their certificate the persons who shall have signed and acknowledged the same, and their associates and successors, shall be a body politic and corporate, by the name stated in such certificate; and by that name they and their successors may have and use a common seal, and may alter and change the same at pleasure, and may make by-laws and elect officers and agents, and may take, receive, hold, and convey real and personal estate necessary for the purposes of the society as stated in their certificate, and other real and personal property the clear annual income from which shall not exceed in value twenty-five thousand dollars: Provided, however, That this section shall not be construed to exempt any property from taxation in addition to that now specifically exempted by law." Corporate powers. *Proviso.*

Section five hundred and forty-seven, by striking out the words "annually, or oftener, elect from its members," and inserting the word "elect" after the word "may," in the first line; so that the same shall read: R. S. D. C. 547, 66.

"SEC. 547. Such incorporated society may elect its trustees, directors, or managers at such time and place and in such manner as may be specified in its by-laws, who shall have the control and management of the affairs and funds of the society, and a majority of whom shall be a quorum for the transaction of business; and whenever any vacancy shall happen in such board of trustees, directors, or managers, the vacancy shall be filled in such manner as shall be provided by the by-laws of the society." Election of officers; vacancies, how filled.

That section five hundred and forty-nine of the Revised Statutes relating to the District of Columbia be, and the same is hereby, repealed; and in lieu of said section the following is enacted: R. S. D. C. 549, 66.

"SEC. 549. Any property of the corporation may be leased, encumbered by mortgage or deed of trust in the nature of a mortgage, or sold and conveyed absolutely, when authorized by a vote of a majority of the shares of stock of the corporation, or by a vote of a majority of the directors, managers, or trustees of the corporation, at a meeting called for the purpose, and the proceedings of which meeting shall be duly entered in the records of the corporation; and the proceeds arising therefrom shall be applied or invested for the use and benefit of such corporation." Sale of real estate, etc.

R. S. D. C. 551, 67. Repealed.

SEC. 2. That section five hundred and fifty-one of the Revised Statutes relating to the District of Columbia be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

Existing corporations may avail themselves of provisions of act, etc.

SEC. 3. That any corporation heretofore formed under sections five hundred and forty-five to five hundred and fifty-two, inclusive, of the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to the District of Columbia may avail itself of the provisions of this act by complying with its requirements, and those that this act is intended to amend; but the right to repeal this act, and to alter, amend, or abolish any charter of incorporation granted under it, is expressly reserved to Congress.

Approved, April 23, 1884.

April 28, 1884.

CHAP. 31.—An act to authorize the construction of a railroad bridge across the Saint Croix River in the States of Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Chippewa Falls and Western Railway Company to construct railroad bridge across St. Croix River.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Chippewa Falls and Western Railway Company, created and existing under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, is hereby granted the right to construct an iron or steel bridge, with masonry piers, to be used by it, its successors or assigns, for railroad purposes, or for railroad and highway purposes, and as a public highway, with continuous span, across the Saint Croix River, from such point in the State of Wisconsin in township numbered thirty north, of range numbered twenty west of the fourth principal meridian, in the county of Saint Croix, which said corporation may select, to such point in the county of Washington, in the State of Minnesota, opposite thereto, as said corporation may select: *Provided*, That the bridge to be constructed under the authority hereby granted shall not interfere with the free navigation of said stream beyond what is necessary in order to carry into full effect the rights and privileges hereby granted; and that said piers shall be built at right angles with the current of the stream where said bridge may be erected, and that each span shall be not less than one hundred and twenty-five feet: *Provided*, That said bridge shall be and be considered a legal structure, and shall be a post-road for the transmission of the United States mails: *And provided further*, That the bridge shall be built with one span of not less than one hundred and fifty feet in the clear over the navigable channel, with a height of not less than sixty feet in the clear above low-water mark.

Proviso. Free navigation of river to be maintained.

Proviso. Legal structure; and a post-road.

Proviso.

Building and location subject to regulations of Secretary of War.

SEC. 2. That any bridge authorized to be constructed under this act shall be built and located under and subject to such regulations for the security of navigation of said river as the Secretary of War shall from time to time prescribe; and to secure that object the said company shall submit to the Secretary of War, for his examination and approval, a design and drawing of the bridge, and a map of the proposed location, giving, for the space of one mile above and one mile below the proposed location, the topography of the banks of the river, the shore lines at high and low water, the direction and strength of the currents at all stages, and the soundings, accurately showing the bed of the stream, the location of any other bridge or bridges, and shall furnish such other information as may be required for a full and satisfactory understanding of the subject; and until the said plan and location of the bridge are approved by the Secretary of War the bridge shall not be built; and the Secretary of War shall determine the proper length of the spans of said bridge, and the height thereof above high-water mark, and as to the plan of the bridge in all respects; and if it be found at any time that such bridge unnecessarily or materially obstructs navigation, he shall require the necessary changes to be made therein, in the interest of such navigation, at the expense of said company; and said company shall maintain, at its own expense, from sunset until sunrise, such lights or other signals on said bridge as the Light-House Board shall prescribe.

Plan, etc., to be approved by Secretary of War.

Lights and signals.