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May 13, 1896.

CHAP. 176.—An Act To revive and reenact an Act to authorize the construction of a free bridge across Arkansas River, connecting Little Rock and Argenta.

Arkansas River. Time extended for bridging, at Little Rock, Ark. Vol. 27, p. 494.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act approved February twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and ninety-three, entitled "An Act authorizing the construction of a free bridge across the Arkansas River, connecting Little Rock and Argenta," which Act has expired by limitation, be, and is hereby, revived and reenacted.

SEC. 2. That section seven of the said Act be amended so as to read as follows:

Commencement and completion.

"SEC. 7. That this Act shall be null and void if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized be not commenced within one year from February twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and ninety-six, and completed within three years from that date."

Approved, May 13, 1896.

May 13, 1896.

CHAP. 177.—An Act To regulate marriages in the District of Columbia.

District of Columbia. Marriages. Minors to obtain consent of parent or guardian.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That if any male person intending to marry in the District of Columbia be under twenty-one years of age, and if a female under eighteen years of age, and has not been previously married, the consent of the father or guardian, or, if there be none, of the mother of such person, shall be given either personally to the clerk of the supreme court of the District of Columbia or his deputy, or in writing subscribed by a witness, who shall make oath before the clerk of said court that said writing was signed or acknowledged in the presence of said witness, by such father, guardian, or mother, as the case may be.

Persons authorized to celebrate marriages. R. S. D. C., sec. 718, p. 86, amended.

SEC. 2. That marriages in the District of Columbia may be celebrated by the judge of any court of record or any justice of the peace. When any minister or other person, appointed or ordained according to the rites and ceremonies of his church, shall, before the supreme court of the District of Columbia, produce proof that he is duly appointed or ordained as such, and that he is in regular communion with the religious society of which he is a member, such court may make an order authorizing him to celebrate the rites of marriage in the District of Columbia. Marriages between persons belonging to any religious society which has no ordained minister may be solemnized by the person appointed and in the manner prescribed by and practiced in any such society.

Persons forbidden.

SEC. 3. That no one but a minister or other person authorized by this Act shall hereafter celebrate the rites of marriage in this District, anything in any law now in force in said District to the contrary notwithstanding.

Previous marriages valid.

SEC. 4. That no marriage heretofore solemnized shall be deemed or adjudged to be invalid, nor shall the validity thereof be in any way affected, on account of any want of authority in any person solemnizing the same, if consummated with a full belief on the part of the persons so married, or either of them, that they were lawfully joined in marriage.

License to foreigners.

SEC. 5. That no license for any marriage shall hereafter be issued to which any citizen of a foreign country shall be a party until a minister or consul representing such foreign country in the United States shall certify that the conditions to the validity of the marriage of the laws of such country shall have been complied with.

Fee.

SEC. 6. That any person authorized to celebrate the rites of marriage shall be paid by the husband a fee of at least one dollar in each case.

Penalty for noncompliance with law.

SEC. 7. That if any minister, justice of the peace, or other person who is authorized to celebrate marriages in the District of Columbia shall fail to comply with the provisions of section eight of this Act, he shall upon conviction be fined for each and every offense, in the discretion