

Property in hands of police.

Property clerk to have charge of property taken on suspicion, etc.

R. S. D. C., sec. 416, p. 49, amended.

Sale of property of deceased persons.

Provisos.
Administration on property exceeding \$50 in value.

Balance to policeman's fund.

District of Columbia be, and the same is, amended as follows, so as to read:

"SEC. 416. All property or money taken on suspicion of having been feloniously obtained, or of being the proceeds of crime, and for which there is no other claimant than the person from whom such property was taken, and all lost property coming into possession of any member of the police force, and all property and money taken from pawnbrokers as the proceeds of crime or from persons supposed to be insane, intoxicated, or otherwise incapable of taking care of themselves, shall be transmitted as soon as practicable to the property clerk, to be fully registered and advertised for the benefit of all parties interested, and for the information of the public as to the amount and disposition of the property so taken into custody by the police. That whenever any money or property of deceased persons coming into the custody of the property clerk of the police department shall remain in his hands for the period of one year without being claimed by the legal representatives of such deceased person, such money or property, when not exceeding fifty dollars in value, shall be disposed of as lost or abandoned property as provided in this chapter: *Provided*, That when the value of such money or property shall exceed fifty dollars and shall have remained in the custody of the property clerk for one year, all records pertaining to the same shall be certified by the property clerk to the orphans' court of the District of Columbia, which shall appoint an administrator of such estate, according to law: *Provided further*, That the administrator so appointed by the orphans' court shall deposit with the Treasurer of the United States, to the credit of the policeman's fund, any balance remaining in his hands after the time limited for the final settlement of the estates of deceased persons under existing law."

Approved, May 29, 1896.

May 30, 1896.

CHAP. 274.—An Act Defining the standard shape and size for dry measures in use in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

District of Columbia.
Penalty for use of illegal dry measures.

Description of standards.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall not be lawful for any person, under a penalty of five dollars for each offense, to be recovered in the police court of the District of Columbia in the name of said District in the same manner as other fines and penalties are recovered, to use any bushel, half-bushel, peck, half peck, or quarter-peck measure unless the same be of the dimensions following, to be measured from inside to inside, to wit: Every bushel measure shall not be less than fifteen and one-fourth inches in diameter at the top, fourteen and one-half inches in diameter at the bottom, twelve and three-eighths inches deep, and the staves three-fourths of an inch in thickness. Every half-bushel measure shall not be less than twelve and one-half inches in diameter at the top, eleven and one-half inches in diameter at the bottom, nine and one-half inches deep, and the staves at least one inch thick. Every peck measure shall not be less than ten inches in diameter at the top, nine and one-fourth inches in diameter at the bottom, seven and five-eighths inches deep, and the staves three-fourths of an inch in thickness. Every half-peck measure, when joined to the peck, shall not be less than eight and five-eighths inches in diameter at the top, nine and one-eighth inches in diameter at the bottom, four and one-half inches in depth, and the staves five-eighths inch thick; and every one-half peck measure, when made separate from the peck, shall not be less than nine and one-eighth inches in diameter at the top, eight and five-eighths inches in diameter at the bottom, four and one-half inches deep, and the staves five-eighths inch thick; every quarter-peck measure shall not be less than six and one-eighth inches in diameter at the top, five and seven-eighths inches in diameter at the bottom, four and three-fourths inches deep, and the staves one-half inch in thickness.

SEC. 2. That when potatoes are sold by weight the lawful weight of a bushel of potatoes shall be sixty pounds, under a penalty of five dollars for each offense, to be recovered in the police court of the District of Columbia, in the name of the said District, in the same manner as other fines and penalties are recovered.

Approved, May 30, 1896.

Sale of potatoes.

CHAP. 275.—An Act Empowering and directing the Secretary of the Navy to furnish four pieces of condemned cannon to the city of Hastings, Michigan.

May 30, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy is hereby authorized to furnish to the city of Hastings, Michigan, for use in completing the soldiers' monument, four pieces of condemned cannon, if in his judgment it may be consistent with the interests of the public service: *Provided*, That the United States shall not be subjected to any expense on account of such donation.

Condemned cannon.
Donated to Hastings, Mich.

Proviso.
Expense.

Approved, May 30, 1896.

CHAP. 303.—An Act To amend the laws of the District of Columbia as to married women, to make parents the natural guardians of their minor children, and for other purposes.

June 1, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the property, real and personal, which any woman in the District of Columbia may own at the time of her marriage, and the rents, issues, profits, or proceeds thereof, and real, personal, or mixed property which shall come to her by descent, devise, purchase, or bequest, or the gift of any person, shall be and remain her sole and separate property, notwithstanding her marriage, and shall not be subject to the disposal of her husband or liable for his debts, except that such property as shall come to her by gift of her husband shall be subject to, and be liable for, the debts of the husband existing at the time of the gift.

District of Columbia.
Married women.
Absolute right to property acquired.
R. S. D. C., sec. 727,
p. 87, amended.

Gifts from husband.

SEC. 2. That a married woman, while the marriage relation subsists, may bargain, sell, and convey her real and personal property, and enter into any contract in reference to the same in the same manner, to the same extent, and with like effect as a married man may in relation to his real and personal property, and she may, by a promise in writing, expressly make her separate estate liable for necessities purchased by her or furnished at her request for the family.

Power of disposal,
contracts, etc.

SEC. 3. That any married woman may carry on any trade or business, occupation or profession by herself, or jointly with others, and perform any labor or services on her sole and separate account, and the earnings of any married woman from her trade, business, profession, occupation, labor, or services shall be her sole and separate property, and may be used and invested by her in her own name.

Right to trade, etc.

SEC. 4. A married woman may contract, and sue and be sued in her own name in all matters having relation to her sole and separate property, in the same manner as if she were unmarried; and her husband shall be joined with her, when the cause of action is in favor of or against both her and her husband.

Right to contract,
etc.
R. S. D. C., sec. 729,
p. 87, amended.

SEC. 5. Neither the husband nor his property shall be bound by any such contract, made by a married woman, nor liable for any recovery against her in any such suit, but judgment may be enforced by execution against her sole and separate estate in the same manner as if she were unmarried, but she shall be entitled to all the benefits of all exemptions to the heads of families or householders.

Husband not liable
under wife's contract.
R. S. D. C., sec. 730,
p. 87.