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R. S., sec. 1750, p. 311.

under section seventeen hundred and fifty of the Revised Statutes, the certificate of such acknowledgment, under the hand and official seal of such notary or other officer, shall be prima facie evidence of the execution of such assignment, grant or conveyance."

Actions for infringements.

SEC. 6. That section forty-nine hundred and twenty-one of the Revised Statutes be, and the same hereby is, amended by adding thereto the following sentence:

Limitation of six years for recovery of damages.

"But in any suit or action brought for the infringement of any patent there shall be no recovery of profits or damages for any infringement committed more than six years before the filing of the bill of complaint or the issuing of the writ in such suit or action, and this provision shall apply to existing causes of action," so that the section so amended will read as follows:

Injunctions and recovery of damages for infringements.
R. S., sec. 4921, p. 952, amended.

"SEC. 4921. The several courts vested with jurisdiction of cases arising under the patent laws shall have power to grant injunctions according to the course and principles of courts of equity, to prevent the violation of any right secured by patent, on such terms as the court may deem reasonable; and upon a decree being rendered in any such case for an infringement the complainant shall be entitled to recover, in addition to the profits to be accounted for by the defendant, the damages the complainant has sustained thereby; and the court shall assess the same or cause the same to be assessed under its direction. And the court shall the same power to increase such damages, in its discretion, as is given to increase the damages found by verdicts in actions in the nature of actions of trespass upon the case.

Limitation.

"But in any suit or action brought for the infringement of any patent there shall be no recovery of profits or damages for any infringement committed more than six years before the filing of the bill of complaint or the issuing of the writ in such suit or action, and this provision shall apply to existing causes of action."

Requests of Departments for speedy action.

SEC. 7. That in every case where the head of any Department of the Government shall request the Commissioner of Patents to expedite the consideration of an application for a patent it shall be the duty of such head of a Department to be represented before the Commissioner in order to prevent the improper issue of a patent.

Effect.

Provisions not applicable to pending patents.

SEC. 8. That this Act shall take effect January first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, and sections one, two, three, and four, amending sections forty-eight hundred and eighty-six, forty-nine hundred and twenty, forty-eight hundred and eighty-seven, and forty-eight hundred and ninety-four of the Revised Statutes, shall not apply to any patent granted prior to said date, nor to any application filed prior to said date, nor to any patent granted on such an application.

Approved, March 3, 1897.

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March 3, 1897.

**CHAP. 392.**—An Act To amend title sixty, chapter three, of the Revised Statutes of the United States, relating to copyrights.

Copyrights.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That section forty-nine hundred and sixty-three of the Revised Statutes of the United States be, and the same is herby, amended so as to read as follows:

Penalty for inserting, selling, or importing articles falsely marked as copyright.

"SEC. 4963. Every person who shall insert or impress such notice, or words of the same purport, in or upon any book, map, chart, dramatic or musical composition, print, cut, engraving or photograph, or other article, whether such article be subject to copyright or otherwise, for which he has not obtained a copyright, or shall knowingly issue or sell any article bearing a notice of United States copyright which has not been copyrighted in this country; or shall import any book, photograph, chromo, or lithograph or other article bearing such notice of copyright or words of the same purport, which is not copyrighted in this country, shall be liable to a penalty of one hundred dollars, recoverable

R. S., sec. 4963, p. 959, amended.

one-half for the person who shall sue for such penalty and one-half to the use of the United States; and the importation into the United States of any book, chromo, lithograph, or photograph, or other article bearing such notice of copyright, when there is no existing copyright thereon in the United States, is prohibited; and the circuit courts of the United States sitting in equity are hereby authorized to enjoin the issuing, publishing, or selling of any article marked or imported in violation of the United States copyright laws, at the suit of any person complaining of such violation: *Provided*, That this Act shall not apply to any importation of or sale of such goods or articles brought into the United States prior to the passage hereof."

Importation forbidden.

Injunctions.

*Proviso.* Prior importations not affected.

SEC. 2. That all laws and parts of laws inconsistent with the foregoing provision be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Repeal.

Approved, March 3, 1897.

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**CHAP. 393.**—An Act Authorizing the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to charge a fee for the issuance of transcripts from the records of the health department.

March 3, 1897.

*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 directed to collect a fee of fifty cents, to be paid to the collector of taxes, and by him to be deposited in the United States Treasury to the credit of the District of Columbia for each transcript from the records of births, deaths, and marriages in the health department of said District: *Provided*, That no one transcript shall be made so as to apply to more than one birth, death, or marriage: *And provided further*, That no fee shall be charged for transcript furnished the various departments of the United States Government for official purposes.

District of Columbia.

Fee for copies from health records.

*Provisos.*

Limit.

No charge for official purposes.

SEC. 2 That this Act shall take effect thirty days after its passage.

Effect.

Approved, March 3, 1897.

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**CHAP. 394.**—An Act To amend section forty of "An Act to reduce the revenue and equalize duties on imports, and for other purposes," approved October first, eighteen hundred and ninety, so as to authorize the sale of forfeited domestic smoking opium to the highest bidder.

March 3, 1897.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That section forty of an Act entitled "An Act to reduce the revenue and equalize duties on imports, and for other purposes," approved October first, eighteen hundred and ninety, be amended by adding at the end of said section the words "and may be sold to the highest bidder, pursuant to the provisions of section thirty-four hundred and sixty, Revised Statutes, if not valued as therein provided at over five hundred dollars; but if valued at more than five hundred dollars the sale shall be made pursuant to the judgment of the court in the proceedings for condemnation or forfeiture."

Opium.

Sale of forfeited domestic, prepared.

Vol. 26, p. 621.
R. S. sec. 3460, p. 685.

Approved, March 3, 1897.

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**CHAP. 395.**—An Act Defining the jurisdiction of the United States circuit courts in cases brought for the infringement of letters patent.

March 3, 1897.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That in suits brought for the infringement of letters patent the circuit courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction, in law or in equity, in the district of which the defendant is an inhabitant, or in any district in which the defendant, whether a person, partnership, or corporation, shall have committed acts of infringement and have a regular and established place of business. If such suit is brought in a district of which the defendant is not an inhabitant, but in which such defendant has a regular and

Patents.

Suits for infringements to be brought in district of defendant.