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 That all laws and parts of laws inconsistent with the foregoing provision be, and the same are hereby, repealed.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

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.

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.

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.