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TAXES.

Taxes.

SEC. 17. That said road shall annually pay a franchise tax to the tax collector of the District of Columbia of five-eighths of one per centum of the entire gross earnings of such company; that there shall be levied and collected in addition to such franchise tax, upon all the real estate of said company, a tax in the same manner and to the same extent as upon all other real estate of the District of Columbia; and in addition to said taxes shall pay an annual tax of two per centum on their entire gross earnings within the District of Columbia.

CHANGES IN GRADES.

Changes in grades.

SEC. 18. That nothing in this Act shall prevent the District of Columbia at any time, at its option, from altering the grade of any avenue, street, or highway occupied by said railway or from altering and improving streets, avenues, highways, and the sewerage thereof; and said company shall change its railway construction and pavements so as to conform to such grades and improvements as may have been or may be established.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINES.

Telegraph and telephone lines.

SEC. 19. That said company is also authorized to construct and operate, for its own use only, telegraph and telephone lines along its railway, as herein provided for, subject to the approval of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION.

Commencement and completion.

SEC. 20. That the construction of the said extension on the lines of the said railway company within the District of Columbia shall be commenced within one year of the passage of this Act and be completed and cars running thereupon for passenger traffic within two years from the passage of this Act, in default of which this Act shall be void and of no effect in so far as the said line shall not be so completed.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

SEC. 21. That the construction, adoption of motive power, erection of buildings, regulation of schedule and speed of running, shall be at all times under the supervision and control of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

PENALTIES.

Penalties.

SEC. 22. That each and every violation of the requirements of this Act shall be punishable by a fine of from twenty-five to one thousand dollars, in the discretion of the court, such fines to be collectible in any court of competent jurisdiction as other fines and penalties are collected in the District of Columbia.

AMENDMENT; REPEAL.

Amendment; repeal.

SEC. 23. That Congress reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act.

Approved, March 3, 1899.

March 3, 1899.

CHAP. 457.—An Act To distinctively designate parcels of land in the District of Columbia for the purposes of assessment and taxation, and for other purposes.

District of Columbia. Distinctive designation of squares, lots, etc, for taxation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, for the purposes of facilitating assessment and taxation of real estate in the District of Columbia, the following system of designating the several parcels of land therein is hereby prescribed, and every designation given in conformity with

said system shall be a sufficient description of the parcel of land to which it relates, for all purposes of assessment and collection of taxes and assessments of every kind:

Each square in the city of Washington shall bear a number or other designation that will distinguish it from every other square in said city.

Each lot or parcel of ground in each such square shall bear a number or other designation that will distinguish it from every other lot or parcel of ground in such square.

Each block in each subdivision in said District outside of the limits of the city of Washington shall bear a number that will distinguish it from every other such block.

Each lot or parcel of land in each such block shall bear a number that will distinguish it from every other lot therein.

Each piece or parcel of unsubdivided land and each parcel of land deeded by metes and bounds in said District shall have a distinctive designation.

Numerical sequence.

As nearly as practicable, in the judgment of the Commissioners, the numbers in each of the aforesaid squares, blocks, or parcels of land requiring to be numbered shall be in a regularly increasing numerical sequence and order, beginning with the lowest number practicable; and, in case of the lots, shall commence at the same relative location in each of the squares, blocks, or parcels of land, and be continued in the same relative order.

Record of designations in office of surveyor.

It shall be the duty of the said Commissioners to cause a record of the designations of the several aforesaid parcels of land to be made in accordance with the foregoing system, in the office of the surveyor of said District; and said Commissioners shall cause the necessary work to be commenced immediately upon the passage of this Act; and hereafter it shall be the duty of the surveyor, in giving numbers to blocks or lots of future subdivisions, to be governed by said system.

To be the official designation for collection of arrears of taxes, etc.

SEC. 2. That the designation given as hereinbefore prescribed to each of said lots or parcels of land, which they shall respectively bear on the records of the assessor of said District at the time said lots or parcels become subject to sale for arrears of any tax or assessment, shall be the official designation of said lots or parcels of land for the enforcement of the collection of all such arrears of general taxes and assessments for the tax year in which the said designation shall be given, and until such designation be changed pursuant to law.

Daily transcript from records of recorder of deeds and register of wills.

SEC. 3. That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall cause to be made a daily transcript, and entry on the records of said assessor, of the designations of lots or parcels of land in said District appearing in instruments of conveyance received for record in the office of the recorder of deeds, and the designations of lots or parcels of land in said District transferred by probated wills; and the person or persons whom the Commissioners of said District may designate for the purpose of making such transcript shall for this purpose at all times during office hours have full access to the records of the recorder of deeds and the register of wills of said District; and the assessor shall daily furnish the surveyor with a copy of such transcript.

Repeal.

SEC. 4. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

License fee for exhibition of works of art.

SEC. 5. That in the District of Columbia the annual license fee for an exhibition of paintings, works of art, or works of historical interest shall be one hundred dollars.

Approved, March 3, 1899.

March 3, 1899.

CHAP. 458.—An Act Relative to the control of wharf property and certain public spaces in the District of Columbia.

District of Columbia. Commissioners to have control of wharf property.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, with the exceptions hereinafter provided, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall have the exclusive charge and control of all wharf property belonging