

trict of Columbia may appoint persons to exercise the duties of such offices within their respective jurisdictions, until such vacancy shall be filled.

Approved, June 24, 1898.

June 24, 1898.

CHAP. 496.—An Act To define the rights of purchasers of the Belt Railway, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any corporation operating a street railroad within the District of Columbia be, and it is hereby, authorized to purchase the property and franchises of the Belt Railway Company under any sale thereof by decree of court or otherwise; and such corporation so purchasing may operate the property and franchises so purchased as a part of its system, subject to all rights and obligations imposed by existing legislation or by this Act, so far as the same shall be applicable; and in case the property and franchises of said Belt railway be purchased by any person or persons at any sale thereof under decree of court or otherwise, such person or persons, or his or their associates and assigns, shall possess and enjoy all the corporate rights, privileges, and franchises heretofore conferred on the said Belt Railway Company by the Act of Congress approved March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, and the Acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, as well as the right to be a corporation under this Act; and the incorporation as hereby provided shall be completed and become effective whenever the said purchaser or purchasers and his or their associates or assigns shall file for record with the recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia a certificate of incorporation hereunder, duly acknowledged, specifying the name of such new corporation, its officers, and the names of its directors for the first year, and the amount of its proposed capital stock and bonds. The capital stock of the corporation herein authorized shall be divided into shares, each of the par value of one hundred dollars; and any corporation so purchasing or so created and organized hereunder is authorized to issue its bonds and capital stock either for cash or in exchange for the stock, bonds, property, or franchises of the said Belt Railway Company: *Provided*, That stock and bonds may be issued to such an amount and upon such terms as may be agreed upon by a majority vote of the stockholders of such company: *And provided further*, That the issue of such stock and bonds shall not in the aggregate exceed the amount necessary for effecting any such purchase, lease or acquisition and for the construction, reconstruction and equipment of said Belt Railway, and shall in no case exceed the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars per mile of single track. And within one year from the ratification by the court of such sale the existing railroad company purchasing the said Belt Railway, or the corporation created and operating hereunder, shall, under the supervision of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, construct and put into full operation on the entire line of said railway as now constructed an underground electric system similar to the one now in use by the Metropolitan Railroad Company, upon plans to be submitted to and approved by the said Commissioners. And the said Commissioners are hereby authorized to require such slight changes of tracks along the streets upon which the said Belt Railway is now constructed as may be necessary for the public convenience, and all expenses incident thereto to be borne by said railway company. And the right is hereby expressly reserved to Congress to require at any time the owner or owners of said railroad to widen any of the streets along or over which said railroad line is now constructed, or to change the route thereof, and the entire expense of such widening of such street and all expenses incident or to a change of route thereto shall be borne by the owner or owners of said railroad.

District of Columbia
Belt Railway, sale of.

—rights of purchaser.

Vol. 18, p. 498; vol. 27, p. 462; vol. 29, p. 318, etc.

—incorporation of purchasers.

—issue of bonds and capital stock.

Provisos.
—amount of issue; terms.

—limit.

Underground electric system.
—completion in one year.

Changes of tracks.

Widening streets.

Change of route.

SEC. 2. That the purchaser or purchasers of the said Belt Railway shall, immediately after said purchase shall have been ratified as herein provided for, and before any permit shall be issued to begin such work, pay all taxes and special assessments due and unpaid to the District of Columbia, and all indebtedness due the employees for labor, or due others for coal, feed, horseshoes and other supplies, contracted for by the receiver of the said Belt Railway Company, duly appointed by the court, and used on behalf and for the benefit of said company during such receivership, and to be approved by the court appointing said receiver, and shall begin the construction of the underground electric system herein provided for; and if said system shall not have been completed at the expiration of one year from the ratification of the purchase of said railway as authorized by this Act the purchaser or purchasers thereof shall pay to the District of Columbia, in addition to all other taxes now required to be paid by the said Belt Railway Company, or by the purchaser or purchasers thereof, the sum of fifty dollars for each and every day thereafter until said road shall be completed.

Payment of existing obligations.

Penalty for failure to complete in one year.

SEC. 3. That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia are hereby authorized and required to station special policemen at such street railway crossings and intersections in the city of Washington as the said Commissioners may deem necessary, the expense of such service to be paid pro rata by the respective companies; every car shall be brought to a full stop, immediately before making such crossing or intersection. Neglect or failure to pay for the service monthly, or to stop any car, as herein provided for shall subject the company to a fine of not to exceed twenty-five dollars for every such neglect or failure, to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Crossings.
—special policemen at.

—stopping of cars before crossing.

—penalty.

SEC. 4. That the company or corporation installing an underground electric system under authority of this Act shall deposit such sum or sums as the Commissioners may require to cover the cost of District inspection and the cost of changes to public works in the streets.

Deposit for expenses of inspection, etc.

SEC. 5. That nothing herein shall be construed to relieve the said Belt Railway Company from any just liability, nor in any manner as affecting any valid subsisting claim of any creditor against said corporation.

Subsisting claims against Belt Railway unaffected.

SEC. 6. That Congress reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act.

Amendment.

Approved, June 24, 1898.

CHAP. 497 —An Act To compel street railway companies in the District of Columbia to remove abandoned tracks, and for other purposes.

June 25, 1898.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That hereafter whenever the track or tracks or any part thereof of any street railway company in the District of Columbia shall not have been regularly operated for railway purposes upon a schedule approved by the Commissioners for a period of three months, the Commissioners of said District, in their discretion, may thereupon notify such company to remove said unused tracks and to place the street in good condition; and if such company shall neglect or refuse to remove said tracks and place the street in good condition within sixty days after such notice, the directors of said company shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be liable to a fine of ten dollars for each and every day during which said tracks are permitted to remain upon the street or streets or said roadway shall remain out of repair, which fine shall be recovered in the police court of said District, in the name of said District, as other fines and penalties are now recovered in said court.

District of Columbia.
Street railways.

—removal of unused tracks.
—penalty.

SEC. 2. That on and after one year from the passage of this Act it shall be unlawful for any street railway company operating its system or parts of its system over any portion of the underground electric lines

—using tracks of another company, to have same propelling power.