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July 8, 1898.

CHAP. 638.—An Act To amend "An Act for the preservation of the public peace and protection of property in the District of Columbia," approved July twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and ninety-two.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That an Act entitled "An Act for the preservation of the public peace and the protection of property within the District of Columbia," approved July twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and ninety-two, be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows:

District of Columbia.
Injury to public and private property forbidden.
Vol. 27, p. 322, amended.

"That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to destroy, injure, disfigure, cut, chip, break, deface, or cover or rub with or otherwise place filth or excrement of any kind upon any property, public or private, in the District of Columbia, or any public or private building, statue, monument, office, dwelling, or structure of any kind, or which may be in course of erection, or the doors, windows, steps, railing, fencing, balconies, balustrades, stairs, porches, or halls, or the walls or sides, or the walls of any inclosure thereof; or to write, mark, or paint obscene or indecent words or language thereon, or to draw, paint, mark, or write obscene or indecent figures representing obscene or indecent objects; or to write, mark, draw, or paint any other word, sign, or figure thereon, without the consent of the owner or proprietor thereof, or, in case of public property, of the person having charge, custody, or control thereof, under a penalty of not more than fifty dollars for each and every such offense."

—penalty.

That said Act be further amended by striking out sections five and six and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Disorderly assembly, etc., forbidden.

"That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons within the District of Columbia to congregate and assemble in any street, avenue, alley, road, or highway, or in or around any public building or inclosure, or any park or reservation, or at the entrance of any private building or inclosure, and engage in loud and boisterous talking or other disorderly conduct, or to insult or make rude or obscene gestures or comments or observations on persons passing by, or in their hearing, or to crowd, obstruct, or incommode the free use of any such street, avenue, alley, road, highway, or any of the foot pavements thereof, or the free entrance into any public or private building or inclosure; that it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to curse, swear, or make use of any profane language or indecent or obscene words, or engage in any disorderly conduct in any street, avenue, alley, road, highway, public park or inclosure, public building, church, or assembly room, or in any other public place, or in any place wherefrom the same may be heard in any street, avenue, alley, road, highway, public park or inclosure, or other building, or in any premises other than those where the offense was committed, under a penalty of not more than twenty-five dollars for each and every such offense."

Obstructing street.

Swearing, etc.

—penalty.

That the said Act be further amended by striking out the eighth section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Vagrants, prostitutes, etc.

"That all vagrants, all idle and disorderly persons, persons of evil life or evil fame, persons who have no visible means of support, persons repeatedly drunk in or about any of the streets, avenues, alleys, roads, highways, or other public places within the District of Columbia, persons repeatedly loitering in or around tippling houses, all suspicious persons, all public prostitutes, and all persons who lead a lewd or lascivious course of life, shall upon conviction thereof be fined not to exceed forty dollars, or shall be required to enter into security for their good behavior for a period of six months. Said security shall be in the nature of a recognizance to the District of Columbia, to be approved by the court, in a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars, conditioned that the offender shall not, for the space of six months, repeat the offense with which he or she is charged and shall in other respects conduct themselves properly."

—penalty on conviction.
—to give bond for good behavior.
—penalty of recognizances, etc.

That section nine be amended by inserting, after the words "public square," where it occurs the second time in said section, the words "or public or private building," so that said section shall read:

Indecent exposure forbidden.

"That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to make any obscene or indecent exposure of his or her person or their persons in any street, avenue or alley, road or highway, open space, public square, or other public place or inclosure, in the District of Columbia, or to make any such obscene or indecent exposure of person in any dwelling or other building or other place wherefrom the same may be seen in any street, avenue, alley, road or highway, open space, public square, or public or private building or inclosure, under a penalty not to exceed two hundred and fifty dollars for each and every such offense." That the taking and carrying away of the property of another in the District of Columbia without right so to do shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed forty dollars.

Taking and carrying away property.

Approved, July 8, 1898.

July 8, 1898.

CHAP. 639.—An Act To amend the criminal laws of the District of Columbia.

District of Columbia.
Police court.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That persons charged in the police court of the District of Columbia in cases in which the only penalty upon conviction for the offense is a fine not to exceed fifty dollars may give security for their appearance for trial or for further hearing, either by giving bond to the satisfaction of the court or by depositing money as collateral security in such amount as the court may direct.

Security for appearance for trial in minor offenses.

Deduction on payment of fine for time served in jail.

SEC. 2. That in all cases in the District of Columbia where a defendant is sent to jail or to the workhouse in default of the payment of a fine he shall be released upon the payment of the balance of the fine due by him, after crediting thereon as paid an amount equal to the proportion the time thus served by him in the jail or workhouse bears to the whole time he was to serve under the sentence.

Approved, July 8, 1898.

July 8, 1898.

CHAP. 640.—An Act To regulate the construction of barbed-wire fences in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

District of Columbia.
Barbed-wire fences.
—prohibited within fire limits.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no fence, barrier, or obstruction consisting or made, in whole or in part, of what is commonly called barbed wire shall be erected, constructed, or maintained along the line of or in or upon any street, avenue, alley, road, or other public walk, driveway, or public or private parking within the fire limits of the District of Columbia.

—outside fire limits, permits.

SEC. 2. That no fence, barrier, or obstruction made, in whole or in part, of what is commonly called barbed wire shall be erected, constructed, or maintained within the said District of Columbia, outside of the fire limits, along the line of or in or upon any street, avenue, alley, road, or other public walk, driveway, or public or private parking without a permit therefor from the Commissioners of said District.

Notice to remove etc.

SEC. 3. That whenever, under the provisions of the above sections, any barbed wire now in use in whole or in part, for a fence, barrier, or obstruction, along the line of or in or upon any street, avenue, alley, road, or other public walk, driveway, or public or private parking within the District of Columbia is required to be removed, said wire shall be removed by the owner of the building or other property upon which such fence, barrier, or obstruction exists, or his or her agent, within thirty days from the service by the inspector of buildings of