

Proceedings where there are several shippers, and the loss exceeds the value of the ship and her freight.

Owner may abandon his interest to a trustee appointed by court for the benefit of the losers.

Charterers, in certain cases, to be deemed the owners.

Remedies against masters, &c., for misconduct, &c., not taken away.

Penalty for shipping oil of vitriol, &c., without giving notice.

Act not to apply to canal boats, &c., or to vessels employed in river navigation.

loss, or destruction, shall be suffered by several freighters or owners of goods, wares, or merchandize, or any property whatever, on the same voyage, and the whole value of the ship or vessel, and her freight for the voyage, shall not be sufficient to make compensation to each of them, they shall receive compensation from the owner or owners of the ship or vessel, in proportion to their respective losses; and for that purpose the said freighters and owners of the property, and the owner or owners of the ship or vessel, or any of them, may take the appropriate proceedings in any court, for the purpose of apportioning the sum for which the owner or owners of the ship or vessel may be liable amongst the parties entitled thereto. And it shall be deemed a sufficient compliance with the requirements of this act, on the part of such owner or owners, if he or they shall transfer his or their interest in such vessel and freight, for the benefit of such claimants, to a trustee, to be appointed by any court of competent jurisdiction, to act as such trustee for the person or persons who may prove to be legally entitled thereto, from and after which transfer, all claims and proceedings against the owner or owners shall cease.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the charterer or charterers of any ship or vessel, in case he or they shall man, victual and navigate such vessel at his or their own expense, or by his or their own procurement, shall be deemed the owner or owners of such vessel within the meaning of this act; and such ship or vessel, when so chartered, shall be liable in the same manner as if navigated by the owner or owners thereof.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in the preceding sections shall be construed to take away or affect the remedy to which any party may be entitled, against the master, officers, or mariners, for or on account of any embezzlement, injury, loss, or destruction of goods, wares, merchandize, or other property, put on board any ship or vessel, or on account of any negligence, fraud, or other malversation of such master, officers, or mariners, respectively, nor shall any thing herein contained lessen or take away any responsibility to which any master or mariner of any ship or vessel may now by law be liable, notwithstanding such master or mariner may be an owner or part owner of the ship or vessel.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That any person or persons shipping oil of vitriol, unslacked lime, inflammable matches, or gunpowder, in a ship or vessel taking cargo for divers persons on freight, without delivering, at the time of shipment, a note in writing, expressing the nature and character of such merchandize, to the master, mate, officer, or person in charge of the lading of the ship or vessel, shall forfeit to the United States one thousand dollars.

This act shall not apply to the owner or owners of any canal boat, barge, or lighter, or to any vessel of any description whatsoever, used in rivers or inland navigation.

APPROVED, March 3, 1851.

March 3, 1851.

CHAP. XLIV. — *An Act providing for an additional Term of the United States Circuit and District Courts at Chicago, in the District of Illinois.* (a)

Terms of courts in Illinois.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a term of the Circuit Court, and a term of the District Court of the United States for the District of Illinois, shall be held at the city of Chicago, in said district, commencing on the first Tuesday of October in each

(a) For previous acts respecting courts in Illinois, see note in vol. iv. p. 468, and Stat. 1819, ch. 70; 1824, ch. 38; 1831, ch. 10; 1848, ch. 35.

year, and a term of each of said courts shall likewise be held at said city, commencing on the third Tuesday of April, in each year; and special terms of said courts, or either of them, may be held at said city of Chicago at such other times as the district judge of the United States for the district of Illinois may appoint; and process may be made returnable to any general or special term of said District or Circuit Court at said city of Chicago, at any succeeding term thereof, notwithstanding a term of the said courts may, in the mean time, be held at the seat of government of the State of Illinois, or elsewhere.

Special terms.

Return of process.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the clerk of said Circuit and District Courts shall keep a clerk's office for said courts at Chicago, and all the records and papers pertaining to business in said courts at Chicago shall be kept therein; and he shall appoint a deputy clerk of said courts, to reside in said city of Chicago.

A clerk's office to be kept at Chicago, and a deputy clerk to be appointed and reside there.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the judge of the District Court of the United States for the district of Illinois may make such rules and regulations for the regulation of the terms of said court, and the process thereof, and the business, and the fees and costs to be taxed therein, as he shall deem expedient, and revise and alter the same when necessary.

Rules and regulations for such courts, process, &c.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the terms of the Circuit Court and the terms of the District Court of the United States for the district of Illinois, now required to be annually held in said district on the first Monday of June, and the first Monday of December, be hereafter held on the first Monday of July, and the third Monday of December, annually, and that all causes, motions, and proceedings pending in said courts, which may have been continued, and all process which may have issued therefrom returnable to the next June term of the said Circuit and District Courts, shall be considered and held as returnable, and continued to the new July terms of the said courts provided for in this section.

Terms of court.

APPROVED, March 3, 1851.

CHAP. XLVIII. — *An Act to establish certain Post-Roads in the United States, and the Territories thereof.*

March 3, 1851.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following roads be, and the same are hereby, declared post-roads, to wit:—

Maine.—From Houlton, via Smyrna, to Aroostook road, in Aroostook county.

Maine.

From Portsmouth in New Hampshire, to Kittery in Maine.

From Dennysville, via Charlotte, to Calias. From East Thomaston to the Island of Matinicus.

Massachusetts.—From Hingham, Plymouth county, via the north part of Cohasset, to Hull.

Massachusetts.

Vermont.—From Danby, Rutland county, via Mount Tabor, to Weston, Windsor county.

Vermont.

From East Thomaston to the Island of Malinicees.

From Dennysville, via Charlotte, Bairing, to Calais.

From Jonesville, via Huntington, Starksboro', Bristol, to New Haven, Addison county.

New Hampshire.—From Wakefield, Carroll county, via East Wakefield, Glidden's Corner, to Effingham.

New Hampshire.

New York.—From the city of Albany, in Albany county, to the lower aqueduct on the Mohawk River.

New York.

From Albany, via Bethlehem, New Scotland, Coeymans, Westerloo, to Granville in Greene county.