

Hill for a steam-boat sunk in the service of the United States, &c.

Florida, in the month of April, eighteen hundred and thirty-eight, while in the service of the United States, as represented by them, by reason of her bottom being eaten through by the worms which infest those waters, and which was prevented from being repaired after she had been ascertained to have been seriously injured, and application had been made for her relief to the officer under whose command she was, in consequence of the exigency of the public service; and that the said Secretary, on finding the facts aforesaid to be true, pay the said Stalker and Hill whatever damage they may have sustained by the loss of the steamboat aforesaid, estimating the value of the said steamboat not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars, and deducting therefrom what, in his judgment, it would have cost to overhaul and repair the said steamboat at the time application was made to take her to Charleston for repairs, including the expense of taking her there, and the value of the engine saved from the wreck of said steamboat; and that the said Secretary be authorized to take additional evidence upon any or all of the points arising in the case, if deemed necessary.

APPROVED, July 5, 1848.

July 8, 1848.

Washington Gas Light Company incorporated.

CHAP. XCVI. — *An Act to incorporate the Washington Gas Light Company.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That John F. Callan, Jacob Bigelow, B. B. French, W. H. Harover, M. P. Callan, W. A. Bradley, and W. H. English, and their present and future associates, are hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of the "Washington Gas Light Company," and by the same name shall have perpetual succession, and shall be able to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in all courts of law and equity in the District of Columbia and elsewhere; and to make and have a common seal, and the same to break, alter, and renew at pleasure; to ordain and establish such by-laws, ordinances, and regulations, and generally to do every act and thing necessary to carry into effect this act, or to promote the objects and design of this corporation.

Capital stock not to exceed \$50,000.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the capital stock of this corporation shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars; that a share in the same shall be twenty dollars; and books of subscription to the said capital stock, or to such portions thereof as from time to time may, by the directors for the time being, be deemed proper and necessary, shall be opened by the appointment or under the direction of the directors hereinafter named, subject to such rules, limitations, and conditions, as by them shall be prescribed; and the stock of the said corporation shall be deemed personal property.

Affairs, &c., of said corporation to be managed by five directors—how they are to be chosen.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the stock, property, and affairs of the said corporation shall be managed and conducted by or under the direction of five directors, being stockholders; that the said directors shall hold their offices for one year from the second Monday, and shall be elected on the first Monday in January, in each year, at such time and place in the city of Washington as a majority of the directors for the time being shall appoint; and that notice of such election shall be published in at least two of the public newspapers printed in the city of Washington, at least fourteen days previous to the time of holding such election; and every such election shall be by ballot, and by such of the stockholders who shall attend for that purpose, either in person or by proxy; and each stockholder shall be entitled to one vote for each share of the stock which he or she may have held in his or her own name for at least fourteen days before the time of voting; and the persons having the greatest number of votes

shall be the directors; and if it shall happen that two or more persons have an equal number of votes, the directors in office at the time of such election shall, by a plurality of votes, given by ballot, determine which of the persons so having an equal number of votes shall be director or directors, so as to complete the whole number to be chosen; and the directors so chosen shall, as soon as may be thereafter, proceed by ballot to elect one of their number for their president; and whenever any vacancy shall happen, the same shall be filled up by the remaining directors, by plurality of votes, until the next annual election.

Directors to choose one of their number for president.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That John F. Callan, Jacob Bigelow, B. B. French, W. H. Harover, M. P. Callan, and W. A. Bradley, shall be the first directors of the said company, who shall hold their offices until the second Monday of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, and until others are chosen in their places; and they shall proceed to choose their president at such time and place as they, or a majority of them, shall determine.

Five persons who shall be directors until January, 1849.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That in case it shall at any time happen that an election for directors shall not take place on the day appointed by this act for that purpose, the said corporation shall not, for that cause, or for any nonuser, be deemed to be dissolved, but it shall and may be lawful to hold an election for directors on any other day, in such manner as shall be provided for by the by-laws of the said corporation.

This corporation not to be dissolved in case of failure to elect directors on the day herein designated.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for the directors, or a majority of them, to require payment of the subscription to the capital stock of the said corporation, at such times and in such proportions as they, or a majority of them, shall deem fit, under the penalty of forfeiting all previous payment or payments thereon; and that previous notice of the instalments required to be paid shall be published at least fourteen days in two of the public newspapers printed in the city of Washington.

Manner in which the capital stock shall be paid in.

Forfeiture for non-payment.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the president and directors shall have full power and authority to manufacture, make, and sell gas, to be made of coal, oil, tar, peat, pitch, or turpentine, or other material, and to be used for the purpose of lighting the city of Washington, or the streets thereof, and any buildings, manufactories, or houses, therein contained and situate, and to lay pipes for the purpose of conducting gas in any of the streets, avenues, and alleys of the said city; and, also, that the said company will so conduct the manufactories of gas as not to injure private property or create a nuisance: *Provided, however*, That the said pipes shall be laid subject to such conditions, and in compliance with such regulations, as the corporation of Washington may from time to time prescribe: *And provided further*, That the right to erect or put up any buildings, works, or apparatus for the manufacture of gas shall be subject to such terms, conditions, restrictions, and regulations as the said corporation of Washington may or shall, from time to time, prescribe or direct.

Powers and duties of the president and directors.

Proviso.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person or persons shall wilfully do, or cause to be done, any act or acts whatever, whereby the works of said corporation, or any pipe, conduit, plug, cock, reservoir, or any engine, machine, or structure, or any matter or thing appertaining to the same, shall be stopped, obstructed, impaired, weakened, injured, or destroyed, the person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay to the said corporation double the amount of the damage sustained by means of such offence or injury, to be recovered in the name of the said corporation, with costs of suit, in any action of debt, to be brought in any court having cognizance thereof.

Penalty for wilfully injuring or damaging works erected by said company.

Nothing in this act to be so construed as to prevent any person or persons, or company, from engaging in the business specified in the 7th section of this act.

Said corporation prohibited from making, issuing, or putting in circulation notes, checks, drafts, &c., intended to circulate as money.

Stockholders to be individually liable for debts and engagements of said corporation.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent any person or persons, nor any incorporated company hereafter to be created by Congress for that purpose, from engaging in and pursuing the business specified in the seventh section of this act; and that it shall be lawful for Congress, at any time hereafter, to alter, amend, or repeal this act.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to authorize the said Washington Gas Light Company to make, issue, or put in circulation any bill, draft, check, order, promissory note, change ticket, or any thing else promising or agreeing to pay money, intended to circulate as money, or the tendency of which shall be to circulate as money or currency; and the violation of any one of the provisions of this section shall be a forfeiture of the charter herein granted, and a fine of fifty dollars against each of the directors voting for the same.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That each of the stockholders in the Washington Gas Light Company shall be held liable in his or her individual capacity for all the debts and liabilities of the said company, however contracted or incurred, to be recovered by suit as other debts or liabilities, before the court or tribunal having jurisdiction of the case.

APPROVED, July 8, 1848.

July 8, 1848.

CHAP. XCVII. — *An Act for the Relief of Russell Goss.*

A pension of eight dollars per month allowed Russell Goss.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place the name of Russell Goss, of the State of Tennessee, on the roll of invalid pensioners, and to pay him during his life a pension at the rate of eight dollars per month, from the first of July, eighteen hundred and forty-six.

APPROVED, July 8, 1848.

July 17, 1848.

CHAP. CIII. — *An Act to confirm to the legal Representatives of Joseph Dutailis the Location of a certain New Madrid Certificate.*

Location under a New Madrid certificate confirmed.

Patent to issue.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the location by the legal representatives or assignee of Joseph Dutailis, under a New Madrid certificate, numbered fifty-two, (52,) of the south half of section eighteen, in township forty-nine north, range nine west, in the State of Missouri, be, and the same is hereby, confirmed, and a patent may issue therefor as in other cases.

APPROVED, July 17, 1848.

July 20, 1848.

CHAP. CVI. — *An Act for the Relief of William T. Holland.*

William T. Holland to be paid the mileage allowed to witnesses in the courts of the United States from Rio de Janeiro to Richmond, Virginia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury pay to William T. Holland, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, the mileage allowed by law to witnesses attending the courts of the United States from the city of Rio de Janeiro, in the empire of Brazil, to the city of Richmond, in the State of Virginia.

APPROVED, July 20, 1848.