

proceed, there being a judge present at each place, or the court intervening may be adjourned over, as herein provided, till the business of the court in session is concluded.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That a clerk shall be appointed at every place of holding circuit and district courts for the district of Kentucky, in like manner and subject to the same duties and responsibilities that other clerks are subject to in other independent districts; the deputy clerks at Covington, Louisville, and Paducah shall perform the duties of the offices, respectively, till clerks are duly appointed and qualified.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That commissioners appointed by the courts of the United States to take bail, affidavits, and so forth, shall have like powers to take surety of the peace and for good behavior, according to the act of July sixteen, seventeen hundred and ninety-eight, that other officers designated by said act now have.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That all process which shall not have been returned when this act takes effect shall be returnable to the terms, respectively, herein fixed; and the clerk, upon issuing original process in a civil action, shall make it returnable to the court nearest to the county of the residence of the defendant, or of that defendant whose county is nearest a court, if he have information sufficient, and shall immediately, upon the payment by the plaintiff of his fees accrued, send the papers filed to the clerk of the court to which the process is made returnable; and whenever the process is not thus made returnable, the defendant or defendants may, upon motion, on or before the calling of the cause, have it transferred to the court to which it should have been sent had the clerk known the residence of the defendant or defendants when the action was brought.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That in case of the existence of bail bonds for the appearance of persons to answer, it shall be the duty of the clerk to call the parties at the time they are bound to appear, and, if they fail, to enter the same on his minutes, on which entry a judgment may afterwards be made of record by the court; and if the party appears, the clerk shall take another bond, with sureties similar to the first, for further appearance at the next succeeding term of the court, and if the party fail to give bond and surety, then he shall stand committed by order of the clerk till he does comply.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That all laws and parts of laws inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, and this act shall be in force from and after its passage.

APPROVED, May 15, 1862.

CHAP. LXXII. — *An Act to establish a Department of Agriculture.*

May 15, 1862.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That there is hereby established at the seat of Government of the United States a Department of Agriculture, the general designs and duties of which shall be to acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense of that word, and to procure, propagate, and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants.

Department of Agriculture established.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a "Commissioner of Agriculture," who shall be the chief executive officer of the Department of Agriculture, who shall hold his office by a tenure similar to that of other civil officers appointed by the President, and who shall receive for his compensation a salary of three thousand dollars per annum.

Commissioner of Agriculture.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the

Term of office.

Salary.

**Duties of Commissioner.**—Commissioner of Agriculture to acquire and preserve in his Department all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain by means of books and correspondence, and by practical and scientific experiments, (accurate records of which experiments shall be kept in his office,) by the collection of statistics, and by any other appropriate means within his power; to collect, as he may be able, new and valuable seeds and plants; to test, by cultivation, the value of such of them as may require such tests; to propagate such as may be worthy of propagation, and to distribute them among agriculturists. He shall annually make a general report in writing of his acts to the President and to Congress, in which he may recommend the publication of papers forming parts of or accompanying his report, which report shall also contain an account of all moneys received and expended by him. He shall also make special reports on particular subjects whenever required to do so by the President or either House of Congress, or when he shall think the subject in his charge requires it. He shall receive and have charge of all the property of the agricultural division of the Patent Office in the Department of the Interior, including the fixtures and property of the propagating garden. He shall direct and superintend the expenditure of all money appropriated by Congress to the Department, and render accounts thereof, and also of all money heretofore appropriated for agriculture and remaining unexpended. And said Commissioner may send and receive through the mails, free of charge, all communications and other matter pertaining to the business of his Department, not exceeding in weight thirty-two ounces.

**Commissioner may appoint a chief clerk, &c., who shall act, &c.** SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Commissioner of Agriculture shall appoint a chief clerk, with a salary of two thousand dollars, who in all cases during the necessary absence of the Commissioner, or when the said principal office shall become vacant, shall perform the duties of Commissioner, and he shall appoint such other employés as Congress may from time to time provide, with salaries corresponding to the salaries of similar officers in other Departments of the Government; and he shall, as Congress may from time to time provide, employ other persons, for such time as their services may be needed, including chemists, botanists, entomologists, and other persons skilled in the natural sciences pertaining to agriculture. And the said Commissioner, and every other person to be appointed in the said Department, shall, before he enters upon the duties of his office or appointment, make oath or affirmation truly and faithfully to execute the trust committed to him. And the said Commissioner and the chief clerk shall also, before entering upon their duties, severally give bonds to the Treasurer of the United States, the former in the sum of ten thousand dollars, and the latter in the sum of five thousand dollars, conditional to render a true and faithful account to him or his successor in office, quarter yearly accounts of all moneys which shall be by them received by virtue of the said office, with sureties to be approved as sufficient by the Solicitor of the Treasury; which bonds shall be filed in the office of the First Comptroller of the Treasury, to be by him put in suit upon any breach of the conditions thereof.

**Oath of office.**

**Bonds of Commissioner and chief clerk.**

**Custody thereof.**

APPROVED, May 15, 1862.

May 17, 1862. CHAP. LXXIII.—*An Act to incorporate the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company.*

Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company incorporated.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That Eliab Kingman, Franklin Tenney, J. J. Coombs, Sayles J. Bowen, Charles H. Upton, Henry Addison, Hallett Kilbourn, and their associates and assigns, be and they are hereby created a body corporate, under the name of the "Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company," with authority to construct and