

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.

Charge of property. 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.

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

lay down a double track railway, with the necessary switches and turn-outs, in the cities of Georgetown and Washington, in the District of Columbia, through and along the following avenues and streets: Commencing on Bridge Street, at the intersection with High Street, or at such point on said Bridge Street east thereof, in the city of Georgetown, as may be designated hereafter by the corporate authorities thereof, along said Bridge Street to its intersection with the street running to the tubular bridge over Rock Creek to Pennsylvania Avenue, in the city of Washington; along said avenue to Fifteenth Street West; along said street south to said avenue; along said avenue to the foot of the Capitol grounds; thence around the southern boundary of the Capitol grounds; and along their southern boundary easterly to Pennsylvania Avenue; along said Pennsylvania Avenue to Eighth Street East, or Garrison Street; and along said street south to the navy-yard gate, with a lateral road running along the eastern front of the Capitol from the southern to the northern gate, and thence by "A" street to the depot of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; and thence from said depot through First Street West to Pennsylvania Avenue, so as to intersect with said main road; also, a double or single track branch railway, commencing at Boundary Street North and running down Seventh Street West to Pennsylvania Avenue and to the Potomac; also, a railway commencing at Boundary Street and running down Fourteenth Street West and New York Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue to a point of intersection with said first-mentioned railway, with the right to run public carriages thereon drawn by horse power, receiving therefor a rate of fare not exceeding five cents a passenger for any distance between the termini of either of the said main railway, or between the termini of either of said branch railways, or between either terminus of said main railway and the terminus of either of said branch railways: *Provided*, That the use and maintenance of said road shall be subject to the municipal regulations of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, respectively, within their several corporate limits, and that whenever the Capitol grounds shall be enlarged, then the said routes shall be made to conform thereto.

Power of corporation.

Line of track.

Horse power.
Fare.Use of road
subject to municipal regulations.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That said roads shall be deemed real estate, and they, together with other real property and the personal property of said body corporate, shall be liable to taxation as other real estate and personal property in the cities aforesaid, except as hereinafter provided.

Roads to be
deemed real estate.

Taxation.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said railway shall be laid in the centre of the avenues and streets, as near as may be, without interfering with or passing over the water or gas pipes, in the most approved manner adapted for street railways, with rails of the most approved patterns, to be determined by the Secretary of the Interior, laid upon an even service with the pavement of the streets; and the space between the two tracks shall not be less than four feet nor more than six feet, and the carriages shall not be less than six feet in width, the gauge to correspond with that of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

Railway how
to be laid.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation, hereby created, shall be bound to keep said tracks, and for the space of two feet beyond the outer rail thereof, and also the space between the tracks, at all times well paved and in good order, without expense to the United States or to the cities of Georgetown and Washington.

Corporation to
keep tracks and
part of street in
repair.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act shall prevent the Government, at any time, at their option, from altering the grade or otherwise improving Pennsylvania Avenue, and such other avenues and streets as may be occupied by said roads, or the cities of Washington and Georgetown from so altering or improving such streets and avenues as may be under their respective authority and control, and in such event it shall be the duty of said company to change their said railroad so as to conform to such altered grade and pavements.

Grades, &c., of
streets may be
altered by au-
thorities.Corporation to
alter its tracks.

This act may be changed or repealed, &c.

Corporation cannot issue notes, scrip, &c., as currency.

Capital. Par value of shares.

Stock, how transferable.

First-class cars to be used.

Times of running.

Passenger-rooms, depots, &c.

Tracks between stables and depots.

Land for stables, depots, &c.

Articles of value left in cars.

Government may transport freight cars over tracks.

Pay therefor.

Books of subscription to be opened in five days, &c.

Advertisement.

Subscription to be null and void unless twenty-five per cent. is paid at time of subscription.

Apportionment of stock.

What to be received in payment of twenty-five per cent.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That this act may at any time be altered, amended, or repealed by the Congress of the United States.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to authorize said body corporate to issue any note, token, device, scrip, or other evidence of debt to be used as a currency.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the capital stock of said company shall be not less than three nor more than five hundred thousand dollars, and that the stock shall be divided into shares of fifty dollars each, and shall be deemed personal property transferable in such manner as the by-laws of said company may direct.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the said company shall place first-class cars on said railways, with all the modern improvements for the convenience and comfort of passengers, and shall run cars thereon during the day as often as every five minutes, except as to Seventh and Fourteenth streets, and on these once in fifteen minutes each way, and until twelve o'clock at night as often as every half hour; and throughout day and night as much oftener as public convenience may require.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That said company shall procure such passenger rooms, ticket offices, stables, and depots at such points as the business of the railroad and the convenience of the public may require. And the said company is hereby authorized to lay such rails through transverse or other streets as may be necessary for the exclusive purpose of connecting the said stables and depots with the main tracks. And the said company is hereby authorized to purchase or lease such lands or buildings as may be necessary for the passenger rooms, ticket offices, stables, and depots above mentioned.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That all articles of value that may be inadvertently left in any of the cars or other vehicles of the said company shall be taken to their principal depot and entered in a book of record of unclaimed goods, which book shall be open to the inspection of the public at all reasonable hours of business.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That said corporation shall, on demand of the President of the United States, Secretary of War, or Secretary of the Navy, cause to be transported over said railway any freight cars laden with freight for the use of the United States; the officers causing such service to be done shall pay a reasonable compensation therefor.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That within five days after the passage of this act the corporators named in the first section, or a majority of them, or if any refuse or neglect to act, then a majority of the remainder, shall cause books of subscription to the capital stock of said company to be opened and kept open, in some convenient and accessible place in the city of Washington, from nine o'clock in the forenoon till five o'clock in the afternoon, for a period to be fixed by said corporators, not less than two days, and said corporators shall give public notice, by advertisement in the daily papers published in the city of Washington, of the time when and the place where said books shall be opened, and subscribers upon said books to the capital stock of the company shall be held to be stockholders: *Provided*, That every subscriber shall pay at the time of subscribing twenty-five per centum of the amount by him subscribed to the treasurer appointed by the corporators, or his subscription shall be null and void. If at the end of two days a larger amount than the capital stock of said company shall have been subscribed, the books shall be closed, and the said corporators named in the first section shall forthwith proceed to apportion said capital stock among the subscribers *pro rata*, and make public proclamation of the number of shares allotted to each, which shall be done and completed on the same day that the books are closed: *Provided, further*, That nothing shall be received in payment of the twenty-five per centum at the time of subscribing except money or checks or certificates of deposit endorsed "good" by the president or

cashier of some good solvent bank or banks. And when the books of subscription to the capital stock of said company shall be closed, the incorporators named in the first section, or a majority of them, and in case any of them refuse or neglect to act, then a majority of the remainder, shall, within twenty days thereafter, call the first meeting of the stockholders of said company, to meet within ten days thereafter, for the choice of directors, of which public notice shall be given for five days in two public newspapers, published daily in the city of Washington, or by written personal notice to each stockholder by the clerk of the corporation; and in all meetings of the stockholders each share shall entitle the holder to one vote, to be given in person or by proxy.

First meeting
of stockholders

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the government and direction of the affairs of the company shall be vested in the board of directors, seven in number, who shall be stockholders, and who shall hold their office for one year and till others are duly elected and qualified to take their places as directors; and the said directors (a majority of whom, the president being one, shall be a quorum) shall elect one of their number to be president of the board, who shall also be president of the company; and they shall also choose a treasurer, who shall give bonds with surety to said company, in such sum as the said directors may require, for the faithful discharge of his trust. In case of a vacancy in the board of directors by the death, resignation, or otherwise, of any director, the vacancy occasioned thereby shall be filled by the remaining directors.

Directors.

President.

Treasurer's
bond.

Vacancies.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That the directors shall have full power to make and prescribe such by-laws, rules, and regulations, as they shall deem needful and proper touching the disposition and management of the stock, property, estate, and effects of the company, not contrary to the charter, or to the laws of the United States, and the ordinances of the cities of Washington and Georgetown.

By-laws.

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be an annual meeting of the stockholders for choice of directors, to be holden at such time and place, under such conditions, and upon such notice, as the said company in their by-laws may prescribe; and said directors shall annually make a report in writing of their doings to the stockholders and to Congress.

Annual meet-
ing of stockhold-
ers.

SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That the Mayor, Common Council, and the several officers of the Corporations of the cities of Georgetown or Washington, and the said Corporations are hereby prohibited from doing any act or thing to hinder, delay, or obstruct the construction or operation of said railroad, as herein authorized.

Officers of cities
of Washington
and Georgetown
not to obstruct,
&c., railroad.

SEC. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That the said company shall have at all times the free and uninterrupted use of their road-way, and if any person or persons shall wilfully and unnecessarily obstruct or impede the passage on or over said railway, or any part thereof, or shall injure or destroy the cars, depot stations, or any property belonging to said railway company, the person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of five dollars to said company, and shall remain liable, in addition to said penalty, for any loss or damage occasioned by his, her, or their act, as aforesaid; but no suit shall be brought unless commenced within sixty days after such offence shall have been committed.

Obstruction of
passage over
road, &c., how
punished.

Penalty.

Damages.

Suits to be
brought within
60 days.

SEC. 19. *And be it further enacted*, That unless said corporation shall make and complete their said railways between the Capitol and Georgetown within sixty working days from and after the company shall have been organized, and from the Capitol to the Navy Yard within sixty days thereafter, and on said Seventh Street, and from said Boundary Street, on Fourteenth Street, to the point of intersection as aforesaid, within six months from the approval of this act, then this act shall be null and void and no rights whatsoever shall be acquired under it.

Unless railroad
is completed
within, &c., act
to be void.

Repeal of inconsistent laws.

SEC. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts and parts of acts heretofore passed, which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this act, are, for the purposes of this act, hereby repealed, so far as the same are inconsistent herewith.

APPROVED, May 17, 1862.

May 20, 1862.

CHAP. LXXV. — *An Act to secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain.*

Certain persons may enter certain quantities of certain unappropriated public lands.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his declaration of intention to become such, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, and who has never borne arms against the United States Government or given aid and comfort to its enemies, shall, from and after the first January, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, be entitled to enter one quarter section or a less quantity of unappropriated public lands, upon which said person may have filed a preëmption claim, or which may, at the time the application is made, be subject to preëmption at one dollar and twenty-five cents, or less, per acre; or eighty acres or less of such unappropriated lands, at two dollars and fifty cents per acre, to be located in a body, in conformity to the legal subdivisions of the public lands, and after the same shall have been surveyed: *Provided*, That any person owning and residing on land may, under the provisions of this act, enter other land lying contiguous to his or her said land, which shall not, with the land so already owned and occupied, exceed in the aggregate one hundred and sixty acres.

Such persons to make affidavit.

Contents of affidavit.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the person applying for the benefit of this act shall, upon application to the register of the land office in which he or she is about to make such entry, make affidavit before the said register or receiver that he or she is the head of a family, or is twenty-one years or more of age, or shall have performed service in the army or navy of the United States, and that he has never borne arms against the Government of the United States or given aid and comfort to its enemies, and that such application is made for his or her exclusive use and benefit, and that said entry is made for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation, and not either directly or indirectly for the use or benefit of any other person or persons whomsoever; and upon filing the said affidavit with the register or receiver, and on payment of ten dollars, he or she shall thereupon be permitted to enter the quantity of land specified: *Provided, however*, That no certificate shall be given or patent issued therefor until the expiration of five years from the date of such entry; and if, at the expiration of such time, or at any time within two years thereafter, the person making such entry; or, if he be dead, his widow; or in case of her death, his heirs or devisee; or in case of a widow making such entry, her heirs or devisee, in case of her death; shall prove by two credible witnesses that he, she, or they have resided upon or cultivated the same for the term of five years immediately succeeding the time of filing the affidavit aforesaid, and shall make affidavit that no part of said land has been alienated, and that he has borne true allegiance to the Government of the United States; then, in such case, he, she, or they, if at that time a citizen of the United States, shall be entitled to a patent, as in other cases provided for by law: *And provided, further*, That in case of the death of both father and mother, leaving an infant child, or children, under twenty-one years of age, the right and fee shall enure to the benefit of said infant child or children; and the executor, administrator, or guardian may, at any time within two years after the death of the surviving parent, and in accordance with the laws of the State in which such children for the time being have their domicile, sell

Certificates and patents, when to issue and upon what proof.

Affidavit.

Provision in case of death of applicant, &c.