

shall, for that cause, be deemed invalid and of no effect: *Provided*, That no instrument, document, writing, or paper, required by law to be stamped, signed, or issued, without being duly stamped prior to the day aforesaid, or any copy thereof, shall be admitted or used as evidence in any court until a legal stamp or stamps, denoting the amount of duty charged thereon, shall have been affixed thereto, or used thereon, and the initials of the person using or affixing the same, together with the date when the same is so used or affixed, shall have been placed thereon by such person. And the person desiring to use any such instrument, document, writing, or paper, as evidence, or his agent or attorney, is authorized in the presence of the court to stamp the same as hereinbefore provided. And section twenty-four of an act entitled "An act increasing, temporarily, the duties on imports, and for other purposes," approved July fourteen, Anno Domini, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, is hereby repealed.

Instruments, &c., not to be used in evidence until stamped.

Who may affix stamp.

Repeal of act of 1862, ch. 163, § 24. *Ante*, p. 560.

APPROVED, December 25, 1862.

CHAP. V. — *An Act to facilitate the Discharge of disabled Soldiers from the Army, and the Inspection of Convalescent Camps and Hospitals.*

Dec. 27, 1862.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That there shall be added to the present medical corps of the army eight medical inspectors, who shall, immediately after the passage of this act, be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, without regard to their rank when so selected, but with sole regard to qualifications, and who shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments now authorized by law to officers of that grade.

Eight medical inspectors to be added to the medical corps of the army.

Selection, rank, pay, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the officers of the medical inspector's department shall be charged, in addition to the duties now assigned to them by existing laws, with the duty of making regular and frequent inspections of all military general hospitals and convalescent camps, and shall, upon each such inspection, designate to the surgeon in charge of such hospitals or camps, all soldiers who may be, in their opinion, fit subjects for discharge from the service, on surgeon's certificate of disability or sufficiently recovered to be returned to their regiments for duty, and shall see that such soldiers are discharged or so returned. And the medical inspecting officers are hereby empowered, under such regulations as may be hereafter established, to direct the return to duty, or the discharge from service, as the case may be, of all soldiers designated by them.

Additional duty imposed upon medical inspectors.

Inspectors may direct soldiers to return to duty, or may discharge them.

APPROVED, December 27, 1862.

CHAP. VI. — *An Act for the Admission of the State of "West Virginia" into the Union, and for other Purposes.*

Dec. 31, 1862.

*Whereas* the people inhabiting that portion of Virginia known as West Virginia did, by a Convention assembled in the city of Wheeling on the twenty-sixth of November, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, frame for themselves a Constitution with a view of becoming a separate and independent State; and whereas at a general election held in the counties composing the territory aforesaid on the third day of May last, the said Constitution was approved and adopted by the qualified voters of the proposed State; and whereas the Legislature of Virginia, by an act passed on the thirteenth day of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, did give its consent to the formation of a new State within the jurisdiction of the said State of Virginia, to be known by the name of West Virginia, and to embrace the following named counties, to wit: Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzell, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Taylor, Tyler, Pleasants, Ritchie, Doddridge, Harrison, Wood, Jackson, Wirt,

West Virginia. Preamble.

Counties composing the State

Roane, Calhoun, Gilmer, Barbour, Tucker, Lewis, Braxton, Upshur, Randolph, Mason, Putnam, Kanawha, Clay, Nicholas, Cabell, Wayne, Boone, Logan, Wyoming, Mercer, McDowell, Webster, Pocahontas, Fayette, Raleigh, Greenbrier, Monroe, Pendleton, Hardy, Hampshire, and Morgan; and whereas both the Convention and the Legislature aforesaid have requested that the new State should be admitted into the Union, and the Constitution aforesaid being republican in form, Congress doth hereby consent that the said forty-eight counties may be formed into a separate and independent State. Therefore —

West Virginia admitted into the Union.

after proclamation of the President.

Proposed change of the Constitution of the State.

This act to take effect when change is ratified and proclaimed by the President.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the State of West Virginia be, and is hereby, declared to be one of the United States of America, and admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, and until the next general census shall be entitled to three members in the House of Representatives of the United States: *Provided, always,* That this act shall not take effect until after the proclamation of the President of the United States hereinafter provided for.

It being represented to Congress that since the Convention of the twenty-sixth of November, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, that framed and proposed the Constitution for the said State of West Virginia, the people thereof have expressed a wish to change the seventh section of the eleventh article of said Constitution by striking out the same and inserting the following in its place, viz: "The children of slaves born within the limits of this State after the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, shall be free; and that all slaves within the said State who shall, at the time aforesaid, be under the age of ten years, shall be free when they arrive at the age of twenty-one years; and all slaves over ten and under twenty-one years shall be free when they arrive at the age of twenty-five years; and no slave shall be permitted to come into the State for permanent residence therein:" Therefore —

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That whenever the people of West Virginia shall, through their said Convention, and by a vote to be taken at an election to be held within the limits of the said State, at such time as the Convention may provide, make, and ratify the change aforesaid, and properly certify the same under the hand of the president of the Convention, it shall be lawful for the President of the United States to issue his proclamation stating the fact, and thereupon this act shall take effect and be in force from and after sixty days from the date of said proclamation.

APPROVED, December 31 1862.

January 6, 1863.

CHAP. VII. — *An Act to improve the Organization of the Cavalry Forces.*

Cavalry regiments to have two assistant surgeons.

Number of privates in company.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That hereafter each regiment of cavalry organized in the United States service, may have two assistant surgeons, and each company or troop of cavalry shall have from sixty to seventy-eight privates.

APPROVED, January 6, 1863.

January 13, 1863.

*Ant.*, p. 576.

Terms of Circuit Court in Iowa, Minnesota, and Kansas.

CHAP. IX. — *An Act prescribing the Times and Places for holding Terms of the Circuit Court for the Districts of Iowa, Minnesota, and Kansas.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the terms of the Circuit Court for the districts of Iowa, Minnesota, and Kansas shall be holden in each and every year at the following times and places, to wit: For the district of Iowa, at Des Moines, on the first Tuesday in May and Novem-