

July 12, 1876.

CHAP. 185.—An act to exempt vessels engaged in navigating the Mississippi River and its tributaries above the port of New Orleans from entries and clearances.

R. S., 4349 to 4356, pp. 845, 847, not to include vessels navigating Mississippi River, etc.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of sections forty-three hundred and forty-nine, forty-three hundred and fifty, forty-three hundred and fifty-one, forty-three hundred and fifty-two, forty-three hundred and fifty-three, forty-three hundred and fifty-four, forty-three hundred and fifty-five, and forty-three hundred and fifty-six of the Revised Statutes, requiring the master of every vessel licensed to carry on the coasting-trade, laden in part with foreign merchandise or distilled spirits, to procure a permit from the customs' officer of the port at which his vessel was laden, authorizing him to proceed to his port of destination, and also to procure a permit from the port of destination for the unloading of his cargo, shall not be held to include vessels engaged in the navigation of the Mississippi River or tributaries above the port of New Orleans.

Approved, July 12, 1876.

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CHAP. 186.—An act to amend sections 3893 and 3894 of the Revised Statutes providing a penalty for mailing obscene books and other matters therein contained, and prohibiting lottery-circulars passing through the mails.

R. S., 3893, p. 763, amended.

Obscene books, etc., to be non-mailable.

Penalty.

Offences under original section.

R. S., 3894, p. 763, amended.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section thirty eight hundred and ninety-three of the Revised Statutes shall be, and is hereby, amended so as to read as follows :

“Every obscene, lewd, or lascivious book, pamphlet, picture, paper, writing, print, or other publication of an indecent character, and every article or thing designed or intended for the prevention of conception or procuring of abortion, and every article or thing intended or adapted for any indecent or immoral use, and every written or printed card, circular, book, pamphlet, advertisement, or notice of any kind giving information, directly or indirectly, where, or how, or of whom, or by what means, any of the hereinbefore mentioned matters, articles or things may be obtained or made, and every letter upon the envelope of which, or postal card upon which, indecent, lewd, obscene, or lascivious delineations, epithets, terms, or language may be written or printed, are hereby declared to be non-mailable matter, and shall not be conveyed in the mails, nor delivered from any post-office nor by any letter-carrier; and any person who shall knowingly deposit, or cause to be deposited, for mailing or delivery, anything declared by this section to be non-mailable matter, and any person who shall knowingly take the same, or cause the same to be taken, from the mails, for the purpose of circulating or disposing of, or of aiding in the circulation or disposition of the same, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall for each and every offence be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five thousand dollars, or imprisoned at hard labor not less than one year nor more than ten years, or both, at the discretion of the court.”

And all offences committed under said original section thirty-eight hundred and ninety-three of the Revised Statutes prior to the approval of this act may be prosecuted and punished under the said original section in the same manner and with the same effect as if this act had not been passed.

SEC. 2. That section thirty-eight hundred and ninety-four of the Revised Statutes be, and is hereby, amended by striking out the word “illegal” in the first line of said section.

Approved, July 12, 1876.