

*Proviso.*  
Cost.

at the site of the beacon heretofore standing at Orient Point, or Oyster Pond Reef, on the west side of Plum Gut, at the entrance of Long Island Sound, in the State of New York: *Provided*, That the cost of such Light-house, and its equipment, shall not exceed the sum of thirty thousand dollars.

Approved, February 24, 1897.

February 24, 1897.

**CHAP. 313.**—An Act To prevent forest fires on the public domain.

Public lands.  
Punishment for setting fire to timber, etc.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That any person who shall willfully or maliciously set on fire, or cause to be set on fire, any timber, underbrush, or grass upon the public domain, or shall carelessly or negligently leave or suffer fire to burn unattended near any timber or other inflammable material, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction of the same, shall be fined in a sum not more than five thousand dollars or be imprisoned for a term of not more than two years, or both.

Camp fires, etc., to be extinguished.

Punishment for failure.

**SEC. 2.** That any person who shall build a camp fire, or other fire, in or near any forest, timber, or other inflammable material upon the public domain, shall, before breaking camp or leaving said fire, totally extinguish the same. Any person failing to do so shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction of the same, shall be fined in a sum not more than one thousand dollars, or be imprisoned for a term of not more than one year, or both.

Disposal of fines collected.

**SEC. 3.** That in all cases arising under this Act the fines collected shall be paid into the public-school fund of the county in which the lands where the offense was committed are situate.

Approved, February 24, 1897.

February 25, 1897.

**CHAP. 315.**—An Act To license billiard and pool tables in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

District of Columbia.  
Billiard tables, etc., kept for gain to be licensed.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That from and after the passage of this Act it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to keep any billiard table, bagatelle table, shuffleboard, jenny lind table, pool table, or any table upon which legitimate games are played, in any saloon, room, or place of business within the District of Columbia for public use or for profit or gain, without a license therefor first had and obtained from the assessor of the District of Columbia.

Fee.

Assessor to grant permission.

*Proviso.*  
Appeal on refusal.

**SEC. 2.** That every person taking out such license shall pay to the collector of taxes of said District a license fee of twelve dollars per annum for each table. Said license may be granted or refused in the discretion of the assessor of said District, and all licenses so granted shall date from the first day of the month in which the liability began and expire on the thirty-first day of October in each year: *Provided*, That in all cases of refusal of said assessor to grant said license, or upon written protest of a majority or more of the property owners or residents of the block in which it is proposed to grant such license, an appeal may be taken to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, whose decision shall be final.

Penalty for use without license.

**SEC. 3.** That every person who shall own, keep, or use any billiard table, bagatelle table, pool table, or any table or board of the kind mentioned in the first section of this Act, for public use or profit without such license first had and obtained, shall, on conviction in the police court, be fined twenty dollars or imprisoned not exceeding three months for each offense, or both, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 4. That it shall not be lawful for the proprietors of billiard tables, pool tables, bagatelle tables, jenny lind tables, or other tables of the kind mentioned in the first section of this Act, shuffleboards and bowling alleys, kept for public hire and gain in the District of Columbia, to sell or to allow to be sold in the same room, spirituous, vinous, or malt liquors, and all such places shall be closed during the entire twenty-four hours of each and every Sunday, and also during the hours that barrooms are required to be closed.

Tables not allowed in room where liquors are sold.

Sunday closing.

Any person violating the provisions of this section shall, on conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than five nor more than forty dollars, and shall in addition forfeit his or her license, in the discretion of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

Penalty.

SEC. 5. That all laws or parts of laws inconsistent with this Act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Repeal.

Approved, February 25, 1897.

CHAP. 316.—An Act To prevent the purchasing of or speculating in claims against the the Federal Government by United States officers.

February 25, 1897.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall hereafter be unlawful for any United States marshal or deputy marshal, or any clerk or deputy clerk of any court of the United States or of any Territory thereof, or any United States attorney or assistant attorney, or any United States judge, or United States commissioner, or other person holding any office, employment, or position of trust or profit under the Government of the United States to purchase, at less than the full face value thereof, either directly or indirectly, any claim for fee, mileage, or expenses of any witness, juror, deputy marshal, or of any other officer of court whatsoever against the United States Government.*

United States Courts. Purchase of claims for fees, etc., by officials prohibited.

SEC. 2. That any person who shall violate this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not exceeding one thousand dollars.

Penalty.

Approved, February 25, 1897.

CHAP. 317.—An Act To authorize the construction of a bridge over the Monongahela River from the city of McKeesport to the township of Mifflin, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

February 25, 1897.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Mifflin Bridge Company, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, its successors, lessees, and assigns, be, and are hereby, authorized and empowered to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge over the Monongahela River from a point in the city of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, between Market and Walnut streets, to a point on the opposite side of said river on the property of the heirs of Colonel William Neal, in Mifflin Township, said county.*

Mifflin Bridge Company may bridge Monongahela River, McKeesport, Pa.

SEC. 2. That said bridge may be constructed to provide for the passage of street cars, wagons, and vehicles of all kinds, and for the transit of animals, foot passengers, and of commercial travel and communication, and the said corporation may charge and receive reasonable tolls therefor, to be approved by the Secretary of War: *Provided*, That any street-car companies desiring the use of said bridge shall have and be entitled to equal privileges in the passage of cars over the same, and over the approaches thereto, upon the payment of a reasonable compensation for such use, and in case of disagreement as to the terms and conditions of such use all matters at issue shall be determined by the Secretary of War upon proper hearing of the proofs and allegations.

Street railway, etc., bridge.

Proviso. Use by street railway companies.