

exported from the United States are, so far as applicable, hereby extended to like articles upon which an internal-revenue tax has been paid when shipped from the United States to the island of Porto Rico or to the Philippine Islands.

Approved, March 4, 1915.

March 4, 1915.
[H. R. 13222.]

[Public, No. 314.]

District of Columbia.
School buildings,
etc., may be used for
civic meetings, etc.

CHAP. 165.—An Act To regulate the use of public school buildings and grounds in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the control of the public schools in the District of Columbia by the board of education shall extend to, include, and comprise the use of the public school buildings and grounds by pupils of the public schools, other children and adults, for supplementary educational purposes, civic meetings for the free discussion of public questions, social centers, centers of recreation, playgrounds. The privilege of using said buildings and grounds for any of said purposes may be granted by the board upon such terms and conditions and under such rules and regulations as the board may prescribe.

Acceptance of free
services of teachers,
lecturers, etc.

Provides.
Services to be volun-
tary, etc.

Other use of build-
ings forbidden.

Conflicting laws re-
pealed.

SEC. 2. That the board of education is authorized to accept, upon written recommendation of the superintendent of schools, free and voluntary services of the teachers of the public schools, other educators, lecturers, and social workers and public officers of the United States and the District of Columbia: *Provided*, That teachers of the public schools shall not be required or compelled to perform any such services or solicited to make any contribution for such purposes: *Provided further*, That the public school buildings and grounds of the District of Columbia shall be used for no purpose whatsoever other than those directly connected with the public school system and as further provided for in this Act.

SEC. 3. That all laws or parts of laws in conflict with this Act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Approved, March 4, 1915.

March 4, 1915.
[H. R. 15215.]

[Public, No. 315.]

District of Columbia.
Appropriation to
settle defalcation of
J. M. A. Watson.

From District reve-
nues.

CHAP. 166.—An Act To authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to adjust and settle the shortages in certain accounts of said District, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia are authorized and directed to adjust and settle the shortages in certain accounts of said District arising through the defalcation of J. M. A. Watson, formerly an employee of the Government of said District, by paying into the Treasury of the United States the sum of \$63,939.96, to be credited as follows: Miscellaneous receipts, United States, \$10,623.75; miscellaneous trust-fund deposits, District of Columbia, \$51,556.22, and permit fund, District of Columbia, \$1,759.99. There is hereby appropriated to carry into effect the provisions of this Act the sum of \$63,939.96, to be paid wholly from the revenues of the District of Columbia.

Approved, March 4, 1915.

March 4, 1915.
[H. R. 16510.]

[Public, No. 316.]

Isthmian Canal Com-
mission.

CHAP. 167.—An Act To provide for recognizing the services of certain officers of the Army, Navy, and Public Health Service for their services in connection with the construction of the Panama Canal, to extend to certain of such officers the thanks of Congress, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the thanks of Congress

are hereby extended to the following officers of the Army and Navy of the United States who, as members of the late Isthmian Canal Commission, have rendered distinguished service in constructing the Panama Canal, to wit: Colonel George W. Goethals, chairman and chief engineer; Brigadier General William C. Gorgas, sanitary expert; Colonel H. F. Hodges, Lieutenant Colonel William L. Sibert, and Commander H. H. Rousseau.

Thanks of Congress to specified Army and Navy officers serving on.

SEC. 2. That the President is hereby authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to advance in rank Colonel George W. Goethals to the grade of major general of the line, United States Army; Brigadier General William C. Gorgas to the rank of major general in the Medical Department, United States Army; Colonel H. F. Hodges and Lieutenant Colonel William L. Sibert to the grade of brigadier general of the line, United States Army; and Commander H. H. Rousseau to the grade of rear admiral of the lower Nine, United States Navy.

Increased rank authorized.

SEC. 3. That such officers of the Army and Navy as were detailed for duty with the Isthmian Canal Commission on the Isthmus of Panama for more than three years, and who shall not have been advanced in rank by any other provision of this bill, shall be advanced one grade in rank upon retirement: *Provided*, That any officer of the Army or Navy now on the retired list with similar service shall be immediately advanced one grade in rank on the retired list of the Army or Navy.

Officers detailed on Isthmus three years advanced one grade when retired.

Proviso. Officers now retired included.

SEC. 4. That the President is further authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint such officers of the Public Health Service as were detailed for duty with the Isthmian Canal Commission on the Isthmus of Panama for more than three years to the grade next above that at present held by such officers.

Public Health Service. Officers detailed three years advanced one grade.

SEC. 5. That the numbers in such grades provided for in sections two and four of this Act, except where vacancies occurring in any grade by the provisions of this Act can be filled by such officers in a lower grade as are entitled to the benefits of this Act, shall be temporarily increased during the time such offices may be held: *Provided*, That the officer who may be advanced and appointed major general in the Medical Department, United States Army, shall thereupon become the head of such department, and the operation of so much of section twenty-six of the Act of February second, nineteen hundred and one, as limits the term of office of the head of the Medical Department, United States Army, shall be suspended during the incumbency of the head of the department who may be appointed under this Act: *Provided*, That whenever the head of the Medical Department appointed under the provisions of this Act shall become separated from the active list of the Army, by retirement or otherwise, the extra office or grade to which he shall have been so advanced or appointed shall cease and determine, and thereafter the rank of the head of the Medical Department, United States Army, shall be that of a brigadier general: *Provided further*, That nothing in this Act shall operate to interfere with or retard the promotion to which any officer would be entitled under existing law: *And provided further*, That the officers advanced to higher grades under this Act shall be junior to the officers who now rank them under existing law when these officers have reached the same grade.

Temporary increase in grades.

Provisos. Medical Department. Suspension of detail restriction for major general as head of. Vol. 31, p. 755.

Rank restored to brigadier general.

Promotions not affected.

Status of officers advanced.

SEC. 6. That at any time after the passage of this Act any officer of the Army or Navy to be benefited by the provisions of this Act may, on his own application, be retired by the President at seventy-five per centum of the pay of the rank upon which he is retired.

Retirement authorized.

Approved, March 4, 1915.