

[OFFICIAL.]

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Passed at the Third Session of the Thirty-seventh
Congress.

[PUBLISHED—No. 109.]

An ACT amendatory of an Act entitled "An Act to provide for the Care and Protection of the Works constructed by the United States for bringing the Potomac Water into the Cities of Washington and Georgetown," to the Supply of said Water for all Governmental Purposes, and for the Use and Benefit of the Inhabitants of the said Cities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in addition to the powers conferred upon the corporation of Washington by the second and third sections of the act of Congress, approved March three, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, [entitled] "An act to provide for the care and preservation of the works constructed by the United States for bringing the Potomac water into the cities of Washington and Georgetown, for the supply of said water for all governmental purposes, and for the uses and benefit of the inhabitants of the said cities," full power and authority are hereby given to the said corporation to levy and collect a water-tax on all real property within the corporate limits of the city of Washington which binds or touches on any avenue, street, or alley in which a main water-pipe has been laid or hereafter may be laid by the United States or by the corporation of Washington, which water-tax shall be as nearly as possible equal and uniform; may be levied on lots in proportion to their frontage or their area, as the said corporation may determine and may be collected in not less than three nor more than five annual installments, of which installments all after the first shall bear interest at the rate of six per centum per annum, commencing from the date of [at] which the first installment becomes due, but may, at the option of the owner of the property taxed, be paid and discharged in full at any time after it shall have been levied. And the said corporation of Washington is further authorized and empowered, on petition of the owners of the majority of the real estate on any square or line of squares, to lay down water-pipes and erect fire-plugs and public hydrants wherever the same may be requisite and necessary for public convenience, security from fire, or for health.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That, to aid in the erection, maintenance, and efficiency of fire-plugs throughout the city, the said corporation of Washington is hereby authorized and empowered to levy and collect a special annual tax on all buildings within five hundred feet of any main water-pipe into which, or the premises connected therewith, the water has not been introduced, and the owners or occupants of which do not pay an annual water-rate or rent in accordance with the ordinances of the corporation, which tax shall be levied with reference to the value of the building so taxed, and shall be not more than five dollars nor less than one dollar per year; but whenever the water shall be introduced, in conformity with the corporation laws, into any building or premises, the fire-plug tax shall cease; and whenever the water shall be discontinued from any building or premises into which it has been introduced, the said building shall be subject to the fire-plug tax from the date of the discontinuance of the water.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the water-tax hereby authorized to be levied and collected shall constitute a fund to be used exclusively to defray the cost of distribution of the water, including all necessary fixtures and machines connected with said distribution; and the annual water rates or rents authorized to be collected by the act of which this act is amendatory shall constitute a fund exclusively for the maintenance, management, and repair of the system of water distribution.

Approved, March 3, 1863.

[PUBLISHED—No. 110.]

An Act to extend the Charter of the Alexandria and Washington Railroad Company, 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 Alexandria and Washington Railroad Company be, and the same is hereby, authorized to extend their said railroad from the south side of the Potomac across said river, to and along Maryland avenue to the Capitol grounds, and across Pennsylvania Avenue along First street to Indiana Avenue, and thence to the Baltimore and Ohio depot; and that all the ordinary rights, privileges, and immunities, incident to similar corporations are conferred upon said company for that purpose:

Provided, however, That the same shall be subject to alterations, amendment, or repeal: *And provided*, further, That the cars shall not be drawn on the streets aforesaid, or on the structure across the Potomac River mentioned in the second section of this act, by steam power without the consent of Congress and of the corporate authorities of the city of Washington thereto: *And provided*, further, That said company shall be authorized to charge and receive rates of freights and fares not exceeding five cents for each person transported and for each ton conveyed on said road so extended: *And provided*, also, That no person shall be excluded from the cars on account of color.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said company are hereby empowered to make such additional structure or passage way along either side of the Potomac bridge as may render the same safe for public use, and so as not to hinder the general use of said bridge for ordinary travel, which shall be ascertained by one or more experienced civil engineers, who shall report, by proper surveys and estimates, to the Secretary of the Interior for his approval; the whole cost of which surveys and construction of said additional bridge for the purpose aforesaid to be paid by the said company. And the said company shall construct such draw as shall correspond with those now in use on the said bridge, and of such model as shall be determined by the Secretary of the Interior, and which shall afford reasonable facilities for navigation on the Potomac River.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the said company shall keep that portion of the avenues or streets occupied by their road in good repair, and provided with suitable crossways, at the proper places, for vehicles and wheeled carriages, and for general use. The track of said road shall be laid as nearly in the centre of the street and avenues through which it passes, as may be, without interfering with the water mains and gas pipes, and the speed of travel shall be subject to such regulations as the corporate authorities of the

city of Washington shall, from time to time, prescribe, under such penalties as the said corporate authorities shall impose: *Provided*, however, That the rights and privileges herein granted shall confer no authority or right to interfere with the United States military use or possession of said road or contemplated extension during the present rebellion, or to any claim for damages or indemnification thereof made between individuals are required by law to be acknowledged.

Approved, March 3, 1863.

[PUBLISHED—No. 111.]

An Act to grant the right of pre-emption to certain purchasers on the "Sosee Ranch," in the State of California.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it may and shall be lawful for the Commissioner of the General Land Office to cause the lines of the public surveys to be extended over the tract of country known as the "Sosee Ranch," in California, the claim to which by Don Mariana Gaudia Valjejo has been adjudged invalid by the Supreme Court of the United States, and to have approved plots thereof duly returned to the proper district land office: *Provided*, That the actual cost of such survey and platting shall first be paid into the surveying fund by settlers, according to the requirements of the tenth section of the act of Congress approved thirtieth of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, "to reduce the expenses of the survey and sale of the public lands in the United States."

See. 2. And be it further enacted, That after the return of such approved plots to the district office, it may and shall be lawful for individuals, bona fide purchasers from said Valjejo, or his assigns, to enter, according to the lines of the public surveys, at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, the land so purchased, to the extent to which the same had been reduced to possession at the time of said adjudication of said Supreme Court, joint entries being admissible by co-terminous proprietors to such an extent as will enable them to adjust their respective boundaries.

See. 3. And be it further enacted, That municipal claims within the limits of the said "Sosee Ranch" may be enforced under the terms, limitations, and conditions of the town site act of twenty-third of May, eighteen hundred and forty-four.

See. 4. And be it further enacted, That all claims within the purview of this act shall be presented to the register and receiver within twelve months after the return of such surveys to the district land office, accompanied by proof of bona fide purchase under Valjejo, or of settlement, and the extent to which the tracts claimed had been reduced into possession at the time of said adjudication; and thereafter each case shall be adjudged by the register and receiver under such instructions as shall be given by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, to whom the proof and adjudication shall be returned by the local land office, and no adjudication shall be final until confirmed by the said Commissioner.

See. 5. And be it further enacted, That any claim not brought before the register and receiver within twelve months, as aforesaid, shall be barred, and the lands covered thereby, with any other tracts within the limits of said "Sosee Ranch," the titles to which are not established under this act, shall be dealt with as other public lands: *Provided*, That no entry shall be made of lands reserved and set aside for military, naval, or other public uses or which may be designated for such purposes by the President, nor shall any claim under this act extend to mineral lands.

[Approved, March 3, 1863.]

America in Congress assembled. That no deed or conveyance heretofore made, in pursuance of law, of squares or lots of public land in the city of Washington, by the Commissioner of Public Buildings, or any other authorized officer, shall be deemed invalid in law, for the want of an acknowledgment by said Commissioner or other authorized officer before such judicial officers as deeds of real property made between individuals are required by law to be acknowledged.

Approved, March 3, 1863.

[PUBLISHED—No. 112.]

An Act to Incorporate the National Academy of Sciences.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Louis Agassiz, Massachusetts; J. H. Alexander, Maryland; S. Alexander, New Jersey; A. D. Bache, at large; F. B. Barnard, at large; J. G. Barnard, United States army, Massachusetts; W. H. C. Bartlett, United States Military Academy, Missouri; U. A. Boyden, Massachusetts; Alexis Caswell, Rhode Island; William Chauvenet, Missouri; J. H. C. Coffin, United States Naval Academy, Maine; J. A. Dahlgren, United States Navy, Pennsylvania; J. D. Dana, Connecticut; Charles H. Davis, United States Navy, Massachusetts; George Engelmann, St. Louis, Missouri; J. F. Frazer, Pennsylvania; Wolcott Gibbs, New York; J. M. Gilless, United States navy, District of Columbia; A. A. Gould, Massachusetts; B. A. Gould, Massachusetts; Asa Gray, Massachusetts; A. Guyot, New Jersey; James Hall, New York; Joseph Henry, at large; J. E. Hilgard, at large; Illinois; Edward Hitchcock, Massachusetts; J. S. Hubbard, United States naval observatory, Connecticut; A. H. Humphreys, United States army, Pennsylvania; J. L. Le Conte, United States army, Pennsylvania; J. P. Lesley, Pennsylvania; M. F. Longstreth, Pennsylvania; D. H. Mahan, United States Military Academy, Virginia; J. S. Newberry, Ohio; H. A. Newton, Connecticut; Benjamin Peirce, Massachusetts; John Rodgers, United States navy, Indiana; Fairman Rogers, Pennsylvania; R. E. Rogers, Pennsylvania; L. M. Rutherford, New York; Joseph Saxton, at large; Benjamin Silliman, Connecticut; Benjamin Silliman, junior, Connecticut; Theodore Strong, New Jersey; John Torrey, New York; J. G. Totten, United States Army, Connecticut; Joseph Winlock, United States Nautical Almanac, Kentucky; Jefries Wyman, Massachusetts; J. D. Whitney, California, their associates and successors duly chosen, are hereby incorporated, constituted, and declared to be a body corporate, by the name of the National Academy of Sciences.

See. 2. And be it further enacted, That the National Academy of Sciences shall consist of not more than fifty ordinary members, and the said corporation hereby constituted shall have power to make its own organization, including its constitution, by-laws, and rules and regulations; to fill all vacancies created by death, resignation, or otherwise; to provide for the election of foreign and domestic members, the division into classes, and all other matters needful or usual in such institution, and to report the same to Congress.

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See. 4. And be it further enacted, That after the return of such approved plots to the district office, it may and shall be lawful for individuals, bona fide purchasers from said Valjejo, or his assigns, to enter, according to the lines of the public surveys, at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, the land so purchased, to the extent to which the same had been reduced to possession at the time of said adjudication of said Supreme Court, joint entries being admissible by co-terminous proprietors to such an extent as will enable them to adjust their respective boundaries.

See. 5. And be it further enacted, That any claim not brought before the register and receiver within twelve months, as aforesaid, shall be barred, and the lands covered thereby, with any other tracts within the limits of said "Sosee Ranch," the titles to which are not established under this act, shall be dealt with as other public lands: *Provided*, That no entry shall be made of lands reserved and set aside for military, naval, or other public uses or which may be designated for such purposes by the President, nor shall any claim under this act extend to mineral lands.

[Approved, March 3, 1863.]

The said company may acquire and hold such real and personal estate as the practical use and working of said road may require, under such regulations, and subject to such taxation, as is imposed by law on similar property located in the city of Washington.

See. 6. And be it further enacted, That the said company may acquire and hold such real and personal estate as the practical use and working of said road may require, under such regulations, and subject to such taxation, as is imposed by law on similar property located in the city of Washington.

See. 7. And be it further enacted, That this act take effect from the time of its passage.

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See. 4. And be it further enacted, That any claim not brought before the register and receiver within twelve months, as aforesaid, shall be barred, and the lands covered thereby, with any other tracts within the limits of said "Sosee Ranch," the titles to which are not established under this act, shall be dealt with as other public lands: *Provided*, That no entry shall be made of lands reserved and set aside for military, naval, or other public uses or which may be designated for such purposes by the President, nor shall any claim under this act extend to mineral lands.

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See. 2. And be it further enacted, That the National Academy of Sciences shall consist of not more than fifty ordinary members, and the said corporation hereby constituted shall have power to make its own organization, including its constitution, by-laws, and rules and regulations; to fill all vacancies created by death, resignation, or otherwise; to provide for the election of foreign and domestic members, the division into classes, and all other matters needful or usual in such institution, and to report the same to Congress.

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See. 6. And be it further enacted, That this act take effect from the time of its passage.

Approved, March 3, 1863.

[PUBLISHED—No. 115.]

An Act to provide for issuing an American register to the steam vessel "Maple Leaf."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there be issued, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, an American register to the British colonial-built steam vessel "Maple Leaf," now owned by Charles Spear and J. H. B. Lang, of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts.

See. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said company shall keep that portion of the avenues or streets occupied by their road in good repair, and provided with suitable crossways, at the proper places, for vehicles and wheeled carriages, and for general use. The track of said road shall be laid as nearly in the centre of the street and avenues through which it passes, as may be, without interfering with the water mains and gas pipes, and the speed of travel shall be subject