CHAP. 95.—An act regulating fees and costs and for other purposes. Feb. 22, 1875.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, "That before any bill of costs shall be taxed by any judge or other officer, or any account payable out of the money of the United States shall be allowed by any officer of the Treasury, in favor of clerks, marshals, or district attorneys, the party claiming such account shall render the same, with the vouchers and items thereof, to a United States circuit or district court, and, in presence of the district attorney or his sworn assistant, whose presence shall be noted on the record, prove in open court, to the satisfaction of the court, by his own oath or that of other persons having knowledge of the facts, to be attached to such account, that the services therein charged have been actually and necessarily performed as therein stated; and that the disbursements charged have been fully paid in lawful money; and the court shall thereupon cause to be entered of record an order approving or disapproving the account, as may be according to law, and just. United States commissioners shall forward their accounts, duly verified by oath, to the district attorneys of their respective districts, by whom they shall be submitted for approval in open court, and the court shall pass upon the same in the manner aforesaid. Accounts and vouchers of clerks, marshals, and district attorneys shall be made in duplicate, to be marked respectively "original" and "duplicate". And it shall be the duty of the clerk to forward the original accounts and vouchers of the officers above specified, when approved, to the proper accounting officers of the Treasury, and to retain in his office the duplicates, where they shall be open to public inspection at all times. Nothing contained in this act shall be deemed in any wise to diminish or affect the right of revision of the accounts to which this act applies by the accounting officers of the Treasury, as exercised under the laws now in force."

Accounts for costs, &c., of clerks, marshals, district attorneys, and commissioners; how to be proven and presented before taxing or allowing.

Accounts and vouchers to be forwarded.

Revision of accounts.

SEC. 2. That whenever the business of the courts in any judicial district shall make it necessary, in the opinion of the Attorney General, for the clerk or marshal to furnish greater security than the official bond now required by law, a bond in a sum not to exceed forty thousand dollars shall be given when required by the Attorney General, who shall fix the amount thereof.

Clerk and marshal; when to give increased bond.

SEC. 3. That the clerks of the Supreme Court and the circuit and district courts, respectively, shall each, before he enters upon the execution of his office, give bond, with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the court for which he is appointed, to the United States, in the sum of not less than five, and not more than twenty thousand dollars, to be determined and regulated by the Attorney-General of the United States, faithfully to discharge the duties of his office, and seasonably to record the decrees, judgments, and determinations of the court of which he is clerk; and it shall be the duty of the district attorneys of the United States, upon requirement by the Attorney General, to give thirty days notice of motion in their several courts that new bonds, in accordance with the terms of this act, are required to be executed; and upon failure of any clerk to execute such new bonds, his office shall be deemed vacant. The Attorney General may at any time, upon like notice through the district attorney, require a bond of increased amount, in his discretion, from any of said clerks within the limit of the amount above specified; and the failure of the clerk to execute the same shall in like manner vacate his office. All bonds given by the clerks shall, after approval, be recorded in their respective offices, and copies thereof from the records, certified by the clerks respectively, under seal of court, shall be competent evidence in any court. The original bonds shall be filed in the Department of Justice.

Bonds of clerks of Supreme Court, and of circuit and district courts.

Duty of district attorneys as to.

SEC. 4. That the circuit courts of the United States, for the purposes of this act, shall have power to award the writ of mandamus, according to the course of the common law, upon motion of the Attorney-General or the district attorney of the United States, to any officer thereof, to

Mandamus by circuit court to officers thereof.

compel him to make the returns and perform the duties in this act required.

Clerk of district or circuit court failing to make report, &c., required by law, to be removed by President.

SEC. 5. That if any clerk of any district or circuit court of the United States shall willfully refuse or neglect to make any report, certificate, statement, or other document required by law to be by him made, or shall willfully refuse or neglect to forward any such report, certificate, statement, or document to the department, officer, or person to whom, by law, the same should be forwarded, the President of the United States is empowered, and it is hereby made his duty, in every such case, to remove such clerk so offending from office by an order in writing for that purpose. And upon the presentation of such order, or a copy thereof, authenticated by the Attorney-General of the United States, to the judge of the court whereof such offender is clerk, such clerk shall thereupon be deemed to be out of office, and shall not exercise the functions thereof. And such district judge, in the case of the clerk of a district court, shall appoint a successor; and in the case of the clerk of a circuit court, the circuit judge shall appoint a successor. And such person so removed shall not be eligible to any appointment as clerk or deputy clerk for the period of two years next after such removal.

Appointment of successor.

Disqualification of clerk removed.

Clerk of district or circuit court willfully refusing to make reports, &c.

SEC. 6. That if any clerk mentioned in the preceding section shall willfully refuse or neglect to make or to forward any such report, certificate, statement, or document therein mentioned, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, in the discretion of the court; but a conviction under this section shall not be necessary as a condition precedent to the removal from office provided for in this act.

Mileage and expenses of attorneys, marshals, and clerks.

1874, c. 285; *ante*, p. 72.

SEC. 7. That the proviso in the sixth paragraph of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the support of the army for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, and for other purposes," approved June sixteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, shall not be construed to apply or to have applied to attorneys, marshals, or clerks of courts of the United States, their assistants or deputies. And all accounts of said attorneys, marshals, and clerks, for mileage and for expenses incurred subsequent to the first day of July, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, and prior to the first day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, shall and may be audited, allowed, and paid at the Treasury Department of the United States in the same manner as if said act had not been passed. And from and after the first day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, no such officer or person shall become entitled to any allowance for mileage or travel not actually and necessarily performed under the provisions of existing law.

Repeals.

SEC. 8. That all acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Approved, February 22, 1875.

Feb. 23, 1875.

CHAP. 99.—An act for the relief of actual settlers on lands claimed to be swamp and overflowed lands in the State of Missouri.

Purchasers of lands in Missouri, as swamp lands, to have priority to preëmpt or homestead, if lands not in fact swamp.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in all cases in the State of Missouri where lands have heretofore been selected and claimed as swamp and overflowed lands by said State, and the various counties therein, by virtue of any act of Congress, and said lands have been withheld from market in consequence thereof by the General Government, and the said State and counties have sold said lands to actual settlers, and said settlers have improved the same to the value of one hundred dollars; said settlers, their heirs, assigns, and legal representatives, who have continued to reside thereon, shall have priority of right to preëmpt or homestead all such lands as may be rejected by the