

propelled by sails and Erickson's propeller, and used exclusively in carrying freight, shall from and after the passage of this act be exempt from liability or fine for failing to provide, as a part of the necessary furniture of such vessel, a suction hose and fire engine and hose suitable to be worked on such vessel in case of fire, or more than one long boat or yawl.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for the court before which any suit, information or indictment is or shall be pending for the violation, before the passage of this act, of so much of the ninth section of the act aforesaid as requires "that iron rods or chains shall be employed and used in the navigation of all steamboats, instead of wheel and tiller ropes," to order such suit, information or indictment to be discontinued, on such terms as to costs as the court shall judge to be just and reasonable: *Provided*, That the defendant or defendants in such prosecution shall cause it to appear, by affidavit or otherwise, to the satisfaction of the court, that he or they had failed to use iron rods or chains in the navigation of his or their boat or boats, from a well-grounded apprehension that such rods or chains could not be employed for the purpose aforesaid with safety.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That in execution of the authority vested in him by the second section of the joint resolution "authorizing experiments to be made for the purpose of testing Samuel Colt's submarine battery and for other purposes," approved August thirty-first one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, the Secretary of the Navy shall appoint a board of examiners, consisting of three persons, of thorough knowledge as to the structure and use of the steam-engine, whose duty it shall be to make experimental trials of such inventions and plans designed to prevent the explosion of steam boilers and collapsing of flues as they may deem worthy of examination, and report the result of their experiments, with an expression of their opinion as to the relative merits and efficacy of such inventions and plans, which report the Secretary shall cause to be laid before Congress, at its next session. It shall also be the duty of said examiners to examine and report the relative strength of copper and iron boilers of equal thickness, and what amount of steam to the square inch each, when sound, is capable of working with safety; and whether hydrostatic pressure, or what other plan is best for testing the strength of boilers under the inspection laws; and what limitations as to the force or pressure of steam to the square inch, in proportion to the ascertained capacity of a boiler to resist, it would be proper to establish by law for the more certain prevention of explosions.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the act aforesaid as is inconsistent with the provisions of this act shall be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

APPROVED, March 3, 1843.

CHAP. XCV.—*An Act in relation to the exemplifications of the records of land patents and other evidences of title, and amendatory of the act entitled "An act to reorganize the General Land Office."*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That literal exemplifications of any such records which have been or may be granted in virtue of the provisions of the seventh section of the act, approved on the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-six, entitled "An act to reorganize the General Land Office," shall be deemed and held to be of the same validity in all proceedings whether at law, or in equity, wherein such exemplifications are adduced in evidence, as if the names of the officers signing and countersigning the same, had been fully inserted in such record.

not required to provide suction hose, &c.

Proceedings pending for violations of 9th sec. act 7th July 1838, ch. 191, discontinued.

Proviso.

Experimental trials of inventions to prevent the explosion of steam boilers, &c. authorized. Ante, p. 584.

Part of act of 7th July 1838, repealed.

STATUTE III.

March 3, 1843.

Act of July 4, 1836, ch. 352.

Literal exemplifications of records to be as valid as if the signatures had been written in full.

Exemplifications of warrants &c. to be of equal validity with the originals.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That exemplifications granted in pursuance of the aforesaid section of the act aforesaid, of any warrant survey, assignment, and other evidences comprising the entire muniments of title, whereon any patent has been based for lands granted by the United States in the aforesaid Virginia military land district or elsewhere, shall be, and are hereby, declared and held as of equal validity with the original patent, warrant survey, assignment, or other evidence of title, on file in said office.

APPROVED, March 3, 1843.

STATUTE III.

March 3, 1843.

CHAP. XCVI.—*An Act providing for the settlement of claims for supplies furnished the Florida militia.*

Claims to be settled on principles of equity and justice.

1842, ch. 192.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the accounting officers of the treasury are authorized and required to settle the claims for supplies furnished the Florida militia, the payment of which is provided for by the acts of August the twenty-third, one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, upon principles of equity and justice, under the directions of the Secretary of War.

APPROVED, March 3, 1843.

STATUTE III.

March 3, 1843.

CHAP. XCVII.—*An Act to provide for holding circuit courts at Williamsport in the western district of Pennsylvania. (a)*

Acts vesting circuit powers in district court at Williamsport repealed.

Circuit courts, when to be held.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That so much of any act or acts of Congress as vest in the district court of the United States for the western district of Pennsylvania holding its sessions at Williamsport the power and jurisdiction of a circuit court be, and the same is hereby repealed; and there shall hereafter be circuit courts held at Williamsport on the third Mondays of June and the third Mondays of September in each year by the associate justice of the Supreme Court who now is or shall hereafter be allotted to the circuit in which said district is situated and the district judge of the western district of Pennsylvania; either of whom shall constitute a quorum; which circuit court and the judges thereof shall have like powers and exercise like jurisdiction as other circuit courts and the judges thereof, and the said district court and the judge thereof shall have like powers and exercise like jurisdiction as the district courts and the judges thereof, in the other circuits.

Proceedings, cognizable in a circuit court, now pending in the dist. court, transferred.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all actions, suits, prosecutions, causes, pleas, process and other proceedings, relative to any cause, civil or criminal, (which might have been brought, and could have been originally cognizable in a circuit court) now pending in or returnable to the said district court of the United States for the western district of Pennsylvania held at Williamsport, acting as a circuit court on the first day of April next shall be and are hereby declared to be, respectively transferred, returnable and continued to the said circuit court constituted by this act to be holden at Williamsport within the said district; and shall be heard, tried and determined therein, in the same manner as if originally brought, entered, prosecuted or had, in such circuit court. And the said circuit court shall be governed by the same laws and regulations as apply to the other circuit courts of the United States; and the clerk of the said court shall perform the same duties and shall be entitled to receive the same fees and emoluments, which are by law established for the clerks of the other circuit courts of the United States.

APPROVED, March 3, 1843.

(a) Act of February 19, 1831, chap. 28.