

CHAP. IV. — *An Act to continue the Office of the Commissioner of Pensions.*

Jan. 14, 1846.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the authority given to continue the office of Commissioner of Pensions by the act of the twentieth of January, eighteen hundred and forty-three, entitled "An Act to continue the Office of Commissioner of Pensions," be extended to the fourth of March, eighteen hundred and forty-nine, and no longer.

1849, ch. 20.

1843, ch. 4.

Office of Commissioner of Pensions continued to March 4th, 1849.

APPROVED, January 14, 1846.

CHAP. VI. — *An Act establishing certain Post Routes.*

Feb. 6, 1846.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That there be and is hereby established a post route from New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana, along the Gulf coast to Galveston, thence to Velasco, to Matagorda, to Pass Aransas, and to Corpus Christi, in Texas, by land or water, as the Postmaster-General may deem expedient; that a post route be also established from Galveston, via the city of Houston, San Felipe de Austin, Lagrange, and Bastrop, to Austin. Also, the following routes: from Fulton, in the State of Arkansas, via Boston, Clarksville, Bonham, and Falls of the Brazos, to Austin; from Natchitoches, via Sabine Town, Nacogdoches, Crockett, Washington, to Lagrange; from Shreveport, in the State of Louisiana, via Pulaski, to Nacogdoches; from Velasco, via Brasoria, Texana, Victoria, and Goliad, to San Antonio de Bexar; from the city of Houston to Robin's Ferry; from Austin to San Antonio de Bexar; and that it shall be the duty of the Postmaster-General to contract for conveying a mail on said routes as soon as can conveniently be done after the passage of this act.

Repealed, post, p. 16.

Post routes established.

Postmaster-General to contract for carrying the mail on said routes.

APPROVED, February 6, 1846.

CHAP. VII. — *An Act relative to Collectors and other Officers of the Customs.*

Feb. 11, 1846.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That collectors and all other officers of the customs, serving for a less period than a year, shall not be paid for the entire year, but shall be allowed in no case a greater than a *pro rata* of the maximum compensation of said officers respectively for the time only which they actually serve as such collectors or officers, whether the same be under one or more appointments, or before or after confirmation. And no collector or other officer shall, in any case, receive for his services, either as fees, salary, fines, penalties, forfeitures, or otherwise, for the time he may be in service, beyond the maximum *pro rata* rate provided by law.

Officers of the customs not to be allowed more than a *pro rata* compensation for the time they may serve.

Not to exceed the maximum.

Accounts for salary to be rendered quarterly.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all accounts for salary, compensation, and emoluments shall be rendered quarterly, at the end of each quarter of the fiscal year.

Additional duties not to be distributed to any officers of customs, but paid in to the treasury. 1842, ch. 270.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That no portion of the additional duties provided by the seventeenth section of the act of August thirtieth, eighteen hundred and forty-two, entitled "An Act to provide Revenue from Imports, and to change and modify existing Laws imposing Duties on Imports, and for other Purposes," shall be deemed a fine, penalty, or forfeiture, for the purpose of being distributed to any

officer of the customs; but the whole amount thereof, when received, shall be paid directly into the treasury.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

APPROVED, February 11, 1846.

Feb. 20, 1846.

Supplementary act, 1846, ch. 97, post, p. 71.

Orphans' Courts of the District of Columbia authorized to appoint guardians to infant orphans, in certain cases.

May require of guardians bond and security, unless otherwise directed by will.

May compel fathers of infant children who may be entitled to property to give bond and security, and in case of failure, may appoint special guardians.

Such guardian to give additional security, if necessary, and upon failure to do so, may be dismissed.

Said courts to have power to enforce a compliance with such orders; or may order their marshal to take possession of and deliver the property.

Summons or notice required.

Said courts may order and require administrators, or executors, to give further security in certain cases.

CHAP. VIII. — *An Act to enlarge the Powers of the several Orphans' Courts held in and for 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 several Orphans' Courts held in and for the District of Columbia be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to appoint a guardian or guardians to any and every infant orphan who may now or hereafter be entitled or have right or claim to any property, real, personal, or mixed, within, or whose person and residence may be within, the jurisdiction of said court, except when said orphan may have a testamentary guardian; and shall require of said guardians so appointed, and of testamentary guardians, unless directed otherwise by the will appointing them, bond, with good and sufficient surety, as now required by law. And when any infant, whose father may be living, shall, by gift or otherwise, be entitled to any property separate from the father, it shall and may be lawful for said courts to compel the father, as natural guardian, to give bond and security to account for said property, and to compel him to account, as guardians in other cases; and if he shall fail or refuse to give such bond, or at his request, said courts shall have power to appoint a special guardian to take charge of said property, who shall give bond and security as in other cases, but with condition to suit the case.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That in all cases where any of said courts have heretofore appointed, or may hereafter appoint, a guardian or guardians, or taken bond, or may hereafter take bond, from any guardian or guardians, and shall at any time have good cause to believe that the interest of the ward or wards may require it, said court shall have power and authority to compel said guardian or guardians to give additional other or further security, in such time as said court may direct; and upon his failure to comply with the order of court directing such security, said court shall have power and authority, and it shall be their duty, to dismiss said guardian from office, and appoint another in his stead, and order the estate of the ward to be forthwith delivered to the newly-appointed guardian, and shall have power, by fine and imprisonment, or any legal process, to compel and enforce a compliance with such order, or may, where it can be so done, order their marshal to take possession of and deliver the property: *Provided, however*, That no order shall be made directing a guardian to give new security, until he shall have been duly summoned to show cause against, or have had ten days' notice, in writing, of the intended application.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That, in all cases where any of said courts have heretofore appointed, or may hereafter appoint, an administrator or administrators, or have taken or may take bond from any executor or executors, to any last will and testament, and shall at any time become satisfied that the security is insufficient, by reason of the removal or insolvency of the sureties in the bond, or any of them, or by reason of the penalty of the bond being too small, or from any other cause whatever, it shall and may be lawful for the said court to order and require the said administrator or administrators, executor