

shall, for that cause, be deemed invalid and of no effect: *Provided*, That no instrument, document, writing, or paper, required by law to be stamped, signed, or issued, without being duly stamped prior to the day aforesaid, or any copy thereof, shall be admitted or used as evidence in any court until a legal stamp or stamps, denoting the amount of duty charged thereon, shall have been affixed thereto, or used thereon, and the initials of the person using or affixing the same, together with the date when the same is so used or affixed, shall have been placed thereon by such person. And the person desiring to use any such instrument, document, writing, or paper, as evidence, or his agent or attorney, is authorized in the presence of the court to stamp the same as hereinbefore provided. And section twenty-four of an act entitled "An act increasing, temporarily, the duties on imports, and for other purposes," approved July fourteen, Anno Domini, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, is hereby repealed.

Instruments, &c., not to be used in evidence until stamped.

Who may affix stamp.

Repeal of act of 1862, ch. 163, § 24. *Ante*, p. 560.

APPROVED, December 25, 1862.

CHAP. V. — *An Act to facilitate the Discharge of disabled Soldiers from the Army, and the Inspection of convalescent Camps and Hospitals.*

Dec. 27, 1862.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That there shall be added to the present medical corps of the army eight medical inspectors, who shall, immediately after the passage of this act, be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, without regard to their rank when so selected, but with sole regard to qualifications, and who shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments now authorized by law to officers of that grade.

Eight medical inspectors to be added to the medical corps of the army.

Selection, rank, pay, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the officers of the medical inspector's department shall be charged, in addition to the duties now assigned to them by existing laws, with the duty of making regular and frequent inspections of all military general hospitals and convalescent camps, and shall, upon each such inspection, designate to the surgeon in charge of such hospitals or camps, all soldiers who may be, in their opinion, fit subjects for discharge from the service, on surgeon's certificate of disability, or sufficiently recovered to be returned to their regiments for duty, and shall see that such soldiers are discharged or so returned. And the medical inspecting officers are hereby empowered, under such regulations as may be hereafter established, to direct the return to duty, or the discharge from service, as the case may be, of all soldiers designated by them.

Additional duty imposed upon medical inspectors.

Inspectors may direct soldiers to return to duty, or may discharge them.

APPROVED, December 27, 1862.

CHAP. VI. — *An Act for the Admission of the State of "West Virginia" into the Union, and for other Purposes.*

Dec. 31, 1862.

*Whereas* the people inhabiting that portion of Virginia known as West Virginia did, by a Convention assembled in the city of Wheeling on the twenty-sixth of November, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, frame for themselves a Constitution with a view of becoming a separate and independent State; and whereas at a general election held in the counties composing the territory aforesaid on the third day of May last, the said Constitution was approved and adopted by the qualified voters of the proposed State; and whereas the Legislature of Virginia, by an act passed on the thirteenth day of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, did give its consent to the formation of a new State within the jurisdiction of the said State of Virginia, to be known by the name of West Virginia, and to embrace the following named counties, to wit: Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Taylor, Tyler, Pleasants, Ritchie, Doddridge, Harrison, Wood, Jackson, Wirt,

West Virginia. Preamble.

Counties composing the State