CHAP. LXXXIV. — An Act to aid in maintaining the Fire Department in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That one-third of the expense incurred in maintaining a fire department in the District of Columbia by the government of said District shall hereafter be paid by the United States, and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby directed to pay annually into the treasury of the District of Columbia, out of any moneys in the United States treasury hereafter to be appropriated, one-third of the entire cost of maintaining the said fire department: Provided, That the amount paid by the United States in any one year shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars.

APPROVED, January 31, 1873.

CHAP. LXXXVIII. — An Act to regulate the Employment of Engineer Soldiers on extra Duty.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the enlisted men of engineers in the army are hereby placed on the same footing with respect to compensation for extra-duty service as the other enlisted men of the army, and that all laws or parts of laws in conflict with this provision be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

APPROVED, February 1, 1873.

CHAP. CV. — An Act making an Appropriation to defray the Expenses of the American and British Claims Commission, 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 sum of one hundred and thirteen thousand five hundred dollars is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to defray the expenses on the part of the United States of the mixed commission on American and British claims, appointed under the twelfth article of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain, signed May eighth, eighteen hundred and seventy-one.

Sec. 2. For payment of contractors for stone work, and other employees, on the post-office and court-house in New York city, five hundred thousand dollars.

APPROVED, February 5, 1873.

CHAP. CXX. — An Act to provide for the holding of additional Terms of the Circuit Court of the United States for the southern District of New York.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That additional terms of the circuit court of the United States for the southern district of New York shall hereafter be held in each year, commencing as follows: On the second Wednesday of January, on the second Wednesday of March, on the second Wednesday of May, on the third Wednesday of June, on the second Wednesday of October, and on the second Wednesday of December. The holding of any of the above-mentioned terms shall not dispense with or affect the holding of any other term of the court at the same time, nor shall the pending of any other term of the court prevent the holding of any of the terms hereby appointed.

Sec. 2. That the terms hereby appointed shall be devoted exclusively to the trial and disposal of the criminal cases and matters arising and pending in said court. The terms of said court appointed by this act may be held by the circuit judge of the second judicial circuit and the district judges for the southern and eastern districts of New York, or any one of
said three judges; and at every such term held by said judge of said eastern district he shall receive the sum of three hundred dollars, the same to be paid in the manner now prescribed by law for the payment of the expenses of another district judge while holding court in said district. All recognizances and bail bonds taken in criminal cases for an appearance at a circuit court in said district condition on an appearance at the next one of the terms hereby appointed shall be valid, and grand and petit juries shall be summoned to attend the said terms as now at other terms of the court.

APPROVED, February 7, 1873.

CHAP. CXXII. — An Act making an Appropriation to defray the Expenses of the Investigations in Regard to Elections in Kansas, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of thirty thousand dollars is hereby appropriated to be paid out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated to defray the expenses of the investigations ordered by the Senate in regard to elections in Kansas, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

APPROVED, February 8, 1873.

CHAP. CXXVI. — An Act to authorize the Construction of eight Steam Vessels of War, 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 Secretary of the Navy be authorized to construct eight steam vessels of war with auxiliary sail-power, and of such class or classes as, in his judgment will best subserve the demands of the service, each carrying six or more guns of large caliber; the hulls to be built of iron or wood, as the Secretary may determine: Provided, That the aggregate tonnage of the whole number shall not exceed eight thousand tons, and that the cost of building the same shall not exceed three million two hundred thousand dollars: And provided, That four of said vessels shall be built in whole or in part, in private yards, upon contract with the lowest responsible bidder therefor, upon public competition and proposals, due notice thereof being given by advertisement, upon models, specifications, and drawings furnished by the Navy Department and under its direction and supervision, if, upon full examination and consideration, the same shall be deemed practicable, by the Secretary of the Navy; or the hulls of any portion of said vessels may be built upon private contract in the government yards upon like proposals, models, specifications, drawings, and supervision, and upon like examination and consideration, the government in either case furnishing such materials as may be deemed practicable by the Secretary of the Navy.

SEC. 2. That neither of said vessels shall be commenced until full and complete models, specifications, and drawings shall be made for its construction in all its parts. And after such models and drawings are approved by the proper authority, they shall not be changed in any respect when the cost will exceed one hundred dollars, except upon the recommendation of a board of survey composed of not less than five officers of the navy, and approved by the Secretary of the Navy; and if changes are made, the actual cost of, and damage caused by, such change shall be estimated by such board of survey; and the terms of the contract shall provide that the contractors shall be bound by the estimate of said board as to the amount of increased or diminished compensation they are to receive, if any, in consequence of any such changes.

APPROVED, February 10, 1873.