

Columbia, the person so charged shall, at his own request but not otherwise, be a competent witness. And his failure to make such request shall not create any presumption against him.

Approved, March 16, 1878.

CHAP. 38.—An act in aid of a Polar expedition designed by James Gordon Bennett.

March 18, 1878.

Whereas James Gordon Bennett, a citizen of the United States, has purchased in Great Britain a vessel supposed to be specially adapted to Arctic expeditions, and proposes, at his own cost, to fit out and man said vessel, and to devote her to efforts to solve the Polar problem; and

Preamble.
1879, ch. 169,
Post, 323.
J. G. Bennett's
Polar expedition.

Whereas it is deemed desirable that said vessel, while so engaged, shall carry the American flag and be officered by American naval officers: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to issue an American register to said vessel by the name of Jeannette, and that the President of the United States be authorized to detail, with their own consent, commissioned, warrant, and petty officers of the Navy, not to exceed ten in number, to act as officers of said vessel during her first voyage to the Arctic seas: *Provided, however,* That such detail shall be made of such officers only as the President is satisfied can be absent from their regular duties without detriment to the public service.

American register to vessel.

Naval officers for command of.

Proviso.

Approved, March 18, 1878.

CHAP. 42.—An act to authorize the granting of an American register to a foreign built ship, for the purpose of the Woodruff Scientific Expedition around the world.

March 23, 1878.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to grant, for the purposes of the "Woodruff Scientific Expedition around the World" a register for a foreign built steamship: *Provided,* That the said steamship be approved by the Secretary of the Navy as suitable in all respects for the purposes of said expedition and there shall be maintained thereon without expense to the United States a school with capacity for at least two hundred students together with a competent faculty for the promotion of scientific and nautical knowledge. *And it is further provided,* That in no case shall mercantile or commercial ventures form any part of said expedition or the government of the United States be now or hereafter subjected to any expense on account thereof.

Woodruff Scientific Expedition.

American register to vessel for.

Provisos.

Approved, March 23, 1878.

CHAP. 43.—An act making appropriations for fortifications and for other works of defense, and for the armament thereof, for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, and for other purposes.

March 23, 1878.

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 thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the protection, preservation, and repair of fortifications and other works of defense, for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, the same to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War; also, the following for armament of fortifications, namely:

Appropriations.

Fortifications.

For the armament of sea-coast fortifications, including heavy guns and howitzers for flank defense, carriages, projectiles, fuses, powder, and implements, their trial and proof, and all necessary expenses incident thereto, and for Gatling or other machine guns, one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

Armament of fortifications.

Torpedoes for harbor defenses.

Proviso limiting use.

For torpedoes for harbor defenses, and preservation of the same, and for torpedo experiments in their application to harbor and land defense, and for instruction of engineer battalion in their preparation and application, fifty thousand dollars: *Provided*, That the money herein appropriated for torpedoes shall only be used in the establishment and maintenance of torpedoes to be operated from shore-stations for the destruction of an enemy's vessel approaching the shore or entering the channel and fairways of harbors.

Approved, March 23, 1878.

March 26, 1878.

CHAP. 44.—An act to extend the charter of the Franklin Insurance Company of the city of Washington.

Franklin Insurance Company. Charter extended for 20 years. 1865, ch. 26, 13 Stat., 426.

Rights and obligations extended.

Personal liability of shareholders.

Right to amend.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the act to amend and extend the charter of the Franklin Insurance Company, approved January thirtieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, be, and the same is hereby, extended and continued in force for the period of twenty years from the ninth day of April, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, the time at which the said act of January thirtieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, will expire; and that all legal rights and privileges conferred upon the Franklin Insurance Company by the original act of incorporation, or by any of the acts amending and extending the same and all legal obligations and responsibilities imposed upon the said company by the acts aforesaid, shall be, and the same are, extended and continued in force for the period of twenty years, commencing on the ninth day of April, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight.

SEC. 2. The shareholders in said company shall be personally liable for all the debts of the company to an amount equal to the par of their shares, and in addition to the amount thereof; and no part of the capital stock of said company shall be withdrawn and any director or stockholder assenting thereto shall be personally liable for all debts of said company existing at the time of such withdrawal. And Congress may at any time alter amend or repeal this act.

Approved, March 26, 1878.

April 2, 1878.

CHAP. 46.—An act to authorize the Worthington and Sioux Falls Railroad Company to extend its road into the Territory of Dakota to the village of Sioux Falls.

Worthington and Sioux Falls Railroad.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That said Worthington and Sioux Falls Railroad Company is hereby authorized and empowered to survey, locate, construct, furnish, maintain, and operate a railroad from the west line of the State of Minnesota to and into the village of Sioux Falls, in Dakota Territory, so as to form and constitute a continuous line of railroad from said Nobles County to and into the village of Sioux Falls; and said corporation is hereby vested with all the franchises, powers, privileges, and immunities necessary to carry into effect the purposes of this act, as herein set forth, and may have and exercise the same fully and effectually within the Territory of Dakota.

Purchase of necessary lands.

SEC. 2. That the said Worthington and Sioux Falls Railroad Company be, and is hereby empowered to enter upon, purchase, take and hold any lands or premises that may be necessary or proper for the construction and working of said road within said Territory of Dakota, not exceeding in width one hundred feet on each side of the line of its railroad, unless a greater width be required for the purpose of excavation or embankment or protection from snow, and in such cases not exceeding two hundred feet; and also any lands or premises that may be necessary and proper for turnouts, standing-places for cars, depots, station-houses, shops or other structures or inclosures required or convenient