ors shall have power to make and prescribe such by-laws, rules, and regulations as they shall deem needful and proper touching the disposition and management of the stock, property, estate and effects of the company, not contrary to the charter or to the laws of the United States and the ordinances of the District of Columbia. There shall be an annual meeting of the stockholders for choice of directors, to be held at such time and place, under such conditions, and upon such notice as the said company in their by-laws may prescribe; and said directors shall annually make a report in writing of their doings to the stockholders and to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. Said company shall have at all times the free and uninterrupted use of the railway; and if any person or persons shall willfully or mischievously, unnecessarily obstruct or impede the passage of the cars of said railway with a vehicle or vehicles, or otherwise, or in any manner molest or interfere with passengers or operatives while in transit, or destroy or injure the cars of said railway, or depots, stations, or other property belonging to said railway, the person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay for each offense not less than twenty-five nor more than one hundred dollars to said company, to be recovered as other fines and penalties of said District, and shall remain liable, in addition to said penalty, for any loss or damage occasioned by his or her or their acts as aforesaid. No person shall be prohibited the right to travel on the cars of said road, or ejected therefrom by the company's employees for any other cause than of being drunk, disorderly, or contagiously diseased, or for the use of obscene or profane language, refusing to pay the legal fare exacted, or to comply with the lawful general regulations of the company. The said Georgetown and Tennallytown Railway Company shall have the right of way across such other railways as are now in operation within the limits of the lines granted by this act, and is hereby authorized to construct its said road across such other railways: Provided, That it shall not interrupt the travel of such other railways in such construction. The principal office of said company shall always be situated in the city of Washington, and all books and papers relating to the business of said company shall be kept thereat, and open at all times to the inspection of the stockholders. The meeting of the stockholders and directors shall be held at said office. The book in which transfers of stock shall be recorded shall be closed for the purpose of such transfer thirty days before the annual election.

SEC. 4. That the said work shall commence within one year from the passage of this act, and be completed its entire distance, with switches and turn-outs, and with cars running thereon for the accommodation of passengers, within two years from the date of the passage of this act; otherwise this charter shall be null and void.

SEC. 5. That Congress hereby reserves to itself the right to at any time alter, amend, or repeal this act.

Received by the President August 10, 1888.

[Note by the Department of State.—The foregoing act having been presented to the President of the United States for his approval, and not having been returned by him to the house of Congress in which it originated within the time prescribed by the Constitution of the United States, has become a law without his approval.]

CHAP. 913.—An act authorizing an increase in pensions in cases of deafness.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act all persons on the pension-rolls of the United States, or who may hereafter be thereon, drawing pensions on account of loss of hearing, shall be entitled to receive, in lieu of the amount
now paid in case of such disability, the sum of thirty dollars, in cases of
total deafness, and such proportion thereof in cases of partial deaf-
ness as the Secretary of the Interior may deem equitable; the amount
paid to be determined by the degree of disability existing in each case.

Approved, August 27, 1888.

August 27, 1888.

CHAP. 914.—An act to provide aid to State or Territorial homes for the support
of disabled soldiers and sailors of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
United States of America in Congress assembled, That all States or
Territories which have established, or which shall hereafter estab-
lish, State homes for disabled soldiers and sailors of the United
States who served in the war of the rebellion, or in any previous
war, who are disabled by age, disease, or otherwise, and by reason
of such disability are incapable of earning a living, provided such
disability was not incurred in service against the United States,
shall be paid for every such disabled soldier or sailor who may be
admitted and cared for in such home at the rate of one hundred
dollars per annum. The number of such persons for whose care
any State or Territory shall receive the said payment under this act
shall be ascertained by the Board of Managers of the National
Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, under such regulations as it
may prescribe, but the said State or Territorial homes shall be ex-
clusively under the control of the respective State or Territorial
authorities, and the Board of Managers shall not have nor assume
any management or control of said State or Territorial homes. The
Board of Managers of the National Home shall, however, have
power to have the said State or Territorial homes inspected at such
times as it may consider necessary, and shall report the result of
such inspections to Congress in its annual report.

Sec. 2. That the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars,
or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out
of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to carry
out the provisions of this act, and payments to the States or Territories
under it shall be made quarterly by the said Board of Managers for
the National Home for Disabled Volunteers to the officers of the
respective States or Territories entitled, duly authorized to receive
such payments, and shall be accounted for as are the appropriations
for the support of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

Approved, August 27, 1888.