

description, not to exceed two dollars per ton; upon passengers, not to exceed five dollars each, as shall be from time to time determined by the President: *Provided*, That no tolls shall be charged or collected upon freight or passengers carried to and landed at Ogdensburg, or any port west of Ogdensburg, and south of a line drawn from the northern boundary of the State of New York through the Saint Lawrence River, the Great Lakes, and their connecting channels to the northern boundary of the State of Minnesota.

Collection of tolls.

Proof of destination.

Tolls to be a lien.

SEC. 2. All tolls so charged shall be collected under such regulations as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, who may require the master of each vessel to furnish a sworn statement of the amount and kind of cargo and the number of passengers carried and the destination of the same, and such proof of the actual delivery of such cargo or passengers at some port or place within the limits above named as he shall deem satisfactory; and until such proof is furnished such freight and passengers may be considered to have been landed at some port or place outside of those limits, and the amount of tolls which would have accrued if they had been so delivered shall constitute a lien, which may be enforced against the vessel in default wherever and whenever found in the waters of the United States.

Approved, July 26, 1892.

July 26, 1892.

**CHAP. 249.**—An act to authorize the Postmaster-General to provide mail service, and for other purposes.

Postal service.  
Mode of securing,  
before regular adver-  
tisements.

Contracts.

Temporary service  
on failure of contracts.

Repeal.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That after providing by general advertisement for the transportation of the mails in any State or Territory as authorized by law, the Postmaster-General may secure any mail service that may become necessary before the next general advertisement for said State or Territory by posting notices, for a period of not less than ten days, in the post-offices at the termini of any route to be let, and upon a bulletin board in the Post-Office Department, inviting proposals, in such form and with such guaranty as may be prescribed by the Postmaster-General, for the performance of the proposed service. The contract for such service shall be made to run to the end of the contract term under the general advertisement, shall be made with the lowest bidder whose proposal is in due form, and who, under the law, is eligible as a bidder for such postal service. Temporary service rendered necessary by reason of the failure of any bidder or contractor to perform the service awarded him under this act may be employed by the Postmaster-General without advertisement, at a rate which he may deem reasonable, at the expense of any such failing bidder or contractor.

SEC. 2. That all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Approved, July 26, 1892.

July 26, 1892.

**CHAP. 250.**—An act to provide for the care of dependent children in the District of Columbia and to create a board of children's guardians.

District of Colum-  
bia.  
Board of children's  
guardians.

Appointment.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That there shall be created, in and for the District of Columbia, a board to be known as the board of children's guardians, composed of nine members who shall serve without compensation, the said board to be a body politic and corporate and to have the powers and to be constituted in the manner hereinafter provided.

SEC. 2. That the members of the board of children's guardians shall be appointed by the judges of the police court and the judge holding

the criminal court of the District of Columbia, met together for that purpose; the assent of a majority of such judges being necessary to appointment in each case: *Provided*, That there shall always be at least three representatives of each sex upon the board. Of the nine members first appointed after the passage of this act, three shall be appointed for one year, three for two years, and three for three years. Thereafter all appointments, except such as shall be made for the remainder of unexpired terms, shall be for the term of three years. The judges of the police court and the judge holding the criminal court, or a majority of them, when met together for that purpose, may remove for cause any member of the board: *Provided*, That such member shall be given an opportunity to be heard in his own defense.

SEC. 3. That the board shall elect from its own members a president, vice-president, and secretary, who shall severally discharge the duties usual to such offices, or such as the by laws of the board may prescribe. The board shall have the power subject to the approval of the Commissioners to employ not more than two agents, at an annual compensation not exceeding two thousand four hundred dollars for the two, and prescribe their duties, and to conclude arrangements with persons or institutions for the care of dependent children at such rates as may be agreed upon.

SEC. 4. That said board shall have the care and supervision of the following classes of children: First. All children committed under section two of the act approved February thirteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty five, entitled, "An act for the protection of children in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes." Second. All children who are destitute of suitable homes and adequate means of earning an honest living, all children abandoned by their parents or guardians, all children of habitually drunken or vicious or unfit parents, all children habitually begging on the streets or from door to door, all children kept in vicious or immoral associations, all children known by their language or life to be vicious or incorrigible whenever such children may be committed to the care of the board by the police court or the criminal court of the District; and power is hereby given to these courts to commit such children when not over sixteen years of age to said board: *Provided*, That the laws regulating the commitment of children to the reform schools of the district shall not be deemed to be repealed in any part by this act. Third. such children as the board of trustees of the reform school for boys or the reform school for girls, may, in their discretion, commit to the board of children's guardians, and power is hereby given the board of trustees of the said reform school to commit any inmate of their respective institutions to the said board of guardians, conditionally upon the good behavior of the child so committed. Fourth. Under the rules to be established by the board children may be received and temporarily cared for pending investigation or judgment of the court.

SEC. 5. That the board shall be the legal guardian of all children committed to it by the courts, and shall have full power to board them in private families, to board them in institutions willing to receive them, to bind them out or apprentice them, or to give them in adoption to foster parents. Children received from the reform schools shall be placed at work, bound out or apprenticed, and at any time before attaining majority may be returned to the school from which they came, if in the judgment of the board of guardians such a course is demanded by the interest of the community or the welfare of the child. All children under the guardianship of the board shall be visited not less than once a year by an agent of the board, and as much oftener as the welfare of the child demands. Children received temporarily may not be kept longer than one week, except by order of the police court or the criminal court.

SEC. 6. That the antecedents, character, and condition of life of each child received by the board shall be investigated as fully as possible,

- Provisos.*
- Sex representation.
- Terms.
- Removal.
- Defense.
- Officers.
- Agents.
- Duties.
- Children committed.
- Vol. 23, p. 302.
- Destitute, abandoned, etc., children.
- Proviso.*
- Children from reform schools.
- Laws relating to reform school not repealed.
- Temporary care.
- To be legal guardian of children committed.
- Apprentices, etc.
- Visit.
- Temporary care.
- Investigation, etc.

and the facts learned entered in permanent records, in which shall also be noted the subsequent history of each child, so far as it can be ascertained.

Records. SEC. 7. That the Commissioners of the District shall have authority to prescribe the form of records to be kept by the board of guardians, and the methods to be employed by them in paying bills and auditing accounts; and an annual report of its operations hereunder shall be made by the board to the superintendent of charities. The superintendent of charities shall have full powers of investigation and report regarding all branches of the work of the board, as well as over all institutions in which children are placed by the board; and it shall be his duty to recommend annually the appropriations which in his judgment are necessary to the carrying on of its work.

Approved, July 26, 1892.

July 26, 1892.

**CHAP. 251.**—An act to amend Section two of an act approved May fourteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty, being "An act for the relief of settlers on public lands."

Public lands.  
Vol. 21, p. 141.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section two of an act approved May fourteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty, entitled "An act for the relief of settlers on public lands," be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

Notice to contestant of relinquishment of contestee's claim.

"SEC. 2. In all cases where any person has contested, paid the land-office fees, and procured the cancellation of any pre-emption, homestead, or timber-culture entry, he shall be notified by the register of the land office of the district in which such land is situated of such cancellation, and shall be allowed thirty days from date of such notice to enter said lands: *Provided*, That said register shall be entitled to a fee of one dollar for the giving of such notice, to be paid by the contestant and not to be reported: *Provided further*, That should any such person who has initiated a contest die before the final termination of the same, said contest shall not abate by reason thereof, but his heirs who are citizens of the United States, may continue the prosecution under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe, and said heirs shall be entitled to the same rights under this act that contestant would have been if his death had not occurred.

*Proviso.*

Fee.

Death of contestant not to abate rights.

Approved, July 26, 1892.

July 26, 1892.

**CHAP. 252.**—An act to amend an act entitled "An act to incorporate the Brightwood Railway Company of the District of Columbia."

Brightwood Railway Company.

Vol. 25, p. 560.  
*Post*, p. 491.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the charter granted to the Brightwood Railway Company by an act of Congress approved October eighteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, be, and the same is, amended as follows:

To use overhead electric power.

"That within six months from the date of the approval of this act, the said Brightwood Railway Company shall equip and operate its existing line with the overhead trolley system of electric motive power, and shall thereafter maintain the road in first-class condition. That the road shall be supplied entirely with new cars of the most approved pattern, which shall be run as the public convenience shall require, but not less frequently than one car every fifteen minutes from each end of the line, between five o'clock ante meridian and twelve o'clock midnight.

Equipment.

Extension of tracks.

"SEC. 2. That within twelve months from the date of the approval of this act the said Brightwood Railway Company shall extend its tracks to the District line, as provided in the original charter of said company, and shall operate the new portion of the line in the same manner and under the same conditions as hereinbefore provided for the