

Proviso.
Construction in
Washington.
Commencement and
completion.

the District Commissioners shall approve, and returning over the same route to the point of beginning: *Provided*, That within the city of Washington a double-track railway shall be constructed: *Provided further*, That the line of said railway company shall be commenced within three months and completed within one year from the date of the passage of this Act, with the exception mentioned in section four of this Act."

Motive power.

SEC. 2. That the motive power to be used on the lines in this Act specified shall be the underground electric system within the city of Washington and the overhead trolley system outside the city of Washington. For crossing the Navy-Yard bridge the said company may, in the discretion of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, use either horse power or the underground electric system to propel its cars; and the said company shall have the privilege of carrying an electric current across the said Navy-Yard bridge in such manner as the said Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall prescribe.

Crossing the bridge.

Transfers.

SEC. 3. That the Capital Railway Company, the Metropolitan Railroad Company, and the Capital Traction Company are hereby required to issue free transfers at the point of intersection of their respective lines, so that for the payment of one fare a passenger on either road shall have the privilege of riding over the lines of both.

Construction of portions of road.

SEC. 4. That the portions of the company's route from Congress or Pencote Heights to Shepherd's Landing and the Harrison street branch east to the District line shall be completed within two years from the passage of this Act: *Provided*, That failure to complete the said portions of the routes as provided for in this section, and, also, failure to complete the extension on Eleventh street east, shall operate to repeal the authority to build said portions, and shall not repeal the charter of said company.

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Repeal as to portions
not completed.

Amendment, etc.

SEC. 5. That Congress reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act.

Approved, May 28, 1896.

May 28, 1896.

CHAP. 255.—An Act To amend section forty-one hundred and thirty-one of the Revised Statutes of the United States, to improve the merchant-marine engineer service and thereby also to increase the efficiency of the Naval Reserve, and for other purposes.

Shipping.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section forty-one hundred and thirty-one of the Revised Statutes of the United States be amended so as to read as follows:

Vessels of the United States defined.
R. S., sec. 4131, p. 795, amended.
Vol. 18, p. 30; Vol. 23, p. 53.

"SEC. 4131. Vessels registered pursuant to law and no others, except such as shall be duly qualified according to law for carrying on the coasting or fishing trade, shall be deemed vessels of the United States, and entitled to the benefits and privileges appertaining to such vessels; but no such vessel shall enjoy such benefits and privileges longer than it shall continue to be wholly owned by a citizen or citizens of the United States or a corporation created under the laws of any of the States thereof, and be commanded by a citizen of the United States.

All officers to be citizens.

And all the officers of vessels of the United States who shall have charge of a watch, including pilots, shall in all cases be citizens of the United States. The word "officers" shall include the chief engineer and each assistant engineer in charge of a watch on vessels propelled wholly or in part by steam; and after the first day of January, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, no person shall be qualified to hold a license as a commander or watch officer of a merchant vessel of the United States who is not a native-born citizen, or whose naturalization as a citizen shall not have been fully completed."

Licenses to be for five years.

SEC. 2. That all licenses issued to such officers shall be for a term of five years, but the holder of a license may have the same renewed for another five years at any time before its expiration: *Provided, however*, That any officer holding a license, and who is engaged in a service which necessitates his continuous absence from the United States, may make

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Renewal when
abroad.

application in writing for one renewal and transmit the same to the board of local inspectors with a statement of the applicant verified before a consul, or other officer of the United States authorized to administer an oath, setting forth the reasons for not appearing in person; and upon receiving the same the board of local inspectors that originally issued such license shall renew the same for one additional term of such license, and shall notify the applicant of such renewal. And in all cases where the issue is the suspension or revocation of such licenses, whether before the local boards of inspectors as provided for in section forty-four hundred and fifty of the Revised Statutes, or before the supervising inspector as provided for in section forty-four hundred and fifty-two of the Revised Statutes, the accused shall be allowed to appear by counsel and to testify in his own behalf.

Examinations in cases of suspension, etc.

R. S., secs. 4450, 4452, p. 861.

No master, mate, pilot, or engineer of steam vessels licensed under title fifty-two of the Revised Statutes shall be liable to draft in time of War, except for the performance of duties such as required by his license; and, while performing such duties in the service of the United States, every such master, mate, pilot, or engineer shall be entitled to the highest rate of wages paid in the merchant marine of the United States for similar services; and, if killed or wounded while performing such duties under the United States, they, or their heirs, or their legal representatives shall be entitled to all the privileges accorded to soldiers and sailors serving in the Army and Navy, under the pension laws of the United States.

Exemption from draft.
R. S., Title LII, p. 852.

Wages for naval service.

Pensions, etc.

SEC. 3. That all laws or parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed. But this shall not be construed to modify or repeal that provision of the Act of June twenty-sixth, eighteen hundred and eighty-four, which reads as follows: "In cases where on a foreign voyage, or on a voyage from an Atlantic to a Pacific port of the United States, any such vessel is for any reason deprived of the services of an officer below the grade of master, his place, or a vacancy caused by the promotion of another officer to such place, may be supplied by a person not a citizen of the United States until the first return of such vessel to its home port; and such vessel shall not be liable to any penalty or penal tax for such employment of an alien officer."

Repeal.

Filling accidental vacancies abroad.
Vol. 23, p. 63.

Approved, May 28, 1896.

CHAP. 256.—An Act To authorize and empower the State of South Dakota to select the Fort Sully Military Reservation in said State as a part of the lands granted to the State under the provisions of an Act to provide for the admission of South Dakota into the Union, approved February twenty-second, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, and for indemnity school lands, and for other purposes.

May 28, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the lands situated in the Fort Sully Military Reservation, in the State of South Dakota, may be selected at any time within one year after the passage of this Act, or the approval of the survey of said reservation by the Secretary of the Interior, by the State of South Dakota as a part of the lands granted to the State under the provisions of an Act to provide for the admission of South Dakota into the Union, approved February twenty-second, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, and for indemnity school lands; and when said lands are selected as herein provided the Secretary of the Interior shall cause patents to be issued therefor to the State of South Dakota: *Provided*, That the State of South Dakota shall have a preference right over any person or corporation to select said lands subject to entry by said State, granted thereto by the Act of Congress approved February twenty-second, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, for a period of sixty days after the foregoing lands have been surveyed and duly declared to be subject to selection and entry under the general land laws of the United States: *Provided further*, That such preference right shall not accrue against bona fide homestead or preemption settlers on any of said lands at the date of the passage of this Act.

Fort Sully Military Reservation.
Selection of lands by South Dakota.
Vol. 25, p. 679.

Patents.

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Preference to State in selecting lands.

Rights of settlers not impaired.

Approved, May 28, 1896.