

CHAP. 311.—An Act To provide for the relief of certain officers and enlisted men of the volunteer forces.

February 24, 1897.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who was duly appointed or commissioned to be an officer of the volunteer service during the war of the rebellion, and who was subject to the mustering regulations at the time applied to members of the volunteer service shall be held and considered to have been mustered into the service of the United States in the grade named in his appointment or commission from the date from which he was to take rank under and by the terms of his said appointment or commission, whether the same was actually received by him or not, and shall be entitled to pay, emoluments, and pension as if actually mustered at that date: *Provided,* That at the date from which he was to take rank by the terms of his said appointment or commission there was a vacancy to which he could be so appointed or commissioned, and his command had either been recruited to the minimum number required by law and the regulations of the War Department, or had been assigned to duty in the field, and that he was actually performing the duties of the grade to which he was so appointed or commissioned; or if not so performing such duties, then he shall be held and considered to have been mustered into service and to be entitled to the benefits of such muster from such time after the date of rank given in his commission as he may have actually entered upon such duties: *Provided further,* That any person held as a prisoner of war, or who may have been absent by reason of wounds, or in hospital by reason of disability received in the service in the line of duty, at the date of issue of his appointment or commission, if a vacancy existed for him in the grade to which so appointed or commissioned, shall be entitled to all the benefits to which he would have been entitled under this Act if he had been actually performing the duties of the grade to which he was appointed or commissioned at said date: *Provided further,* That this Act shall be construed to apply only in those cases where the commission bears date prior to June twentieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, or after that date when the commands of the persons appointed or commissioned were not below the minimum number required by then existing laws and regulations: *And provided further,* That the pay and allowances actually received for the period covered by the recognition extended under this Act shall be deducted from the sums otherwise to be paid thereunder.

Volunteers.
Officers to take rank
by terms of appointment.

Pay, etc.
Provisos.
To date from actual
performance of duties,
etc.

Prisoners of war, or
disabled.

Limitation.

Deduction of pay
received.

Allowance to heirs.

No deductions if
services performed.

Repeal, etc.

SEC. 2. That the heirs or legal representatives of any person whose muster into service shall be recognized and established under the terms of this Act shall be entitled to receive the arrears of pay and emoluments due, and the pension, if any, authorized by law, for the grade to which recognition shall be so extended.

SEC. 3. That the pay and allowances of any rank or grade paid to and received by any military or naval officer in good faith for services actually performed by such officer in such rank or grade during the war of the rebellion, other than as directed in the fourth proviso of the first section of this Act, shall not be charged to or recovered back from such officer because of any defect in the title of such officer to the office, rank, or grade in which such services were so actually performed.

SEC. 4. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Approved, February 24, 1897.

CHAP. 312.—An Act Providing for the erection of a light-house at Orient Point, Long Island, New York.

February 24, 1897.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Light-house Board is hereby authorized and directed to erect a Light-house, with fog signal,

Orient Point, N. Y.
Light-house estab-
lished.

at the site of the beacon heretofore standing at Orient Point, or Oyster Pond Reef, on the west side of Plum Gut, at the entrance of Long Island Sound, in the State of New York: *Provided*, That the cost of such Light-house, and its equipment, shall not exceed the sum of thirty thousand dollars.

Approved, February 24, 1897.

February 24, 1897.

CHAP. 313.—An Act To prevent forest fires on the public domain.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who shall willfully or maliciously set on fire, or cause to be set on fire, any timber, underbrush, or grass upon the public domain, or shall carelessly or negligently leave or suffer fire to burn unattended near any timber or other inflammable material, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction of the same, shall be fined in a sum not more than five thousand dollars or be imprisoned for a term of not more than two years, or both.

Public lands.
Penalishment for setting fire to timber, etc.

Camp fires, etc., to be extinguished.

Punishment for failure.

Disposal of fines collected.

SEC. 2. That any person who shall build a camp fire, or other fire, in or near any forest, timber, or other inflammable material upon the public domain, shall, before breaking camp or leaving said fire, totally extinguish the same. Any person failing to do so shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction of the same, shall be fined in a sum not more than one thousand dollars, or be imprisoned for a term of not more than one year, or both.

SEC. 3. That in all cases arising under this Act the fines collected shall be paid into the public-school fund of the county in which the lands where the offense was committed are situate.

Approved, February 24, 1897.

February 25, 1897.

CHAP. 315.—An Act To license billiard and pool tables in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

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 it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to keep any billiard table, bagatelle table, shuffleboard, jenny lind table, pool table, or any table upon which legitimate games are played, in any saloon, room, or place of business within the District of Columbia for public use or for profit or gain, without a license therefor first had and obtained from the assessor of the District of Columbia.

District of Columbia.
Billiard tables, etc., kept for gain to be licensed.

Fee.

Assessor to grant permission.

Provision.
Appeal on refusal.

Penalty for use without license.

SEC. 2. That every person taking out such license shall pay to the collector of taxes of said District a license fee of twelve dollars per annum for each table. Said license may be granted or refused in the discretion of the assessor of said District, and all licenses so granted shall date from the first day of the month in which the liability began and expire on the thirty-first day of October in each year: *Provided*, That in all cases of refusal of said assessor to grant said license, or upon written protest of a majority or more of the property owners or residents of the block in which it is proposed to grant such license, an appeal may be taken to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, whose decision shall be final.

SEC. 3. That every person who shall own, keep, or use any billiard table, bagatelle table, pool table, or any table or board of the kind mentioned in the first section of this Act, for public use or profit without such license first had and obtained, shall, on conviction in the police court, be fined twenty dollars or imprisoned not exceeding three months for each offense, or both, in the discretion of the court.