

Bureau of  
Medicine and  
Surgery.

Remaining  
balances may be  
expended for  
clerical services.

Further  
transfer.

For the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, five thousand eight hundred dollars.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all remaining balances shall attach to the office of the Secretary of the Navy, and may be expended by him for such clerical services as he shall judge the interests of the department require.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of one thousand dollars, heretofore appropriated for the contingent expenses of the Bureau of Construction, Equipment, and Repair, be transferred to the Bureau of Steam Engineering, and the sum of one thousand dollars to the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting. And also that the sum of one thousand dollars, heretofore appropriated for the contingent expenses of the Bureau of Ordnance, be transferred to the Bureau of Navigation.

APPROVED, December 19, 1862.

Dec. 25, 1862.  
1862, ch. 119.  
Ante, p. 432.

CHAP. IV. — *An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to provide Internal Revenue to support the Government and to pay Interest on the Public Debt," approved July first, eighteen hundred and sixty-two.*

Assessors, col-  
lectors, &c. may  
administer oaths.

No fees there-  
for.

Commissioner  
to furnish adhe-  
sive stamps, &c.  
to collector at  
San Francisco  
and Portland.

No greater  
commission to  
be allowed.

No instrument  
to be void for  
want of particu-  
lar stamp, if a  
legal stamp of  
equal value be  
used thereon.

Proprietary  
articles excepted

Official docu-  
ments, &c. of  
United States  
exempt from  
duty.

Instruments  
required to be  
stamped, issued  
prior to March  
1, 1863, without  
a stamp, not for  
that reason to  
be void.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the assessors, assistant assessors, collectors, and deputy collectors, appointed, or who may be appointed, under the provisions of an act entitled "An act to provide internal revenue to support the Government and to pay interest on the public debt," approved July first, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and all subsequent acts in relation thereto which have been or may be enacted, are hereby authorized and empowered to administer oaths or affirmations in all cases where the same are or may be required by the acts as aforesaid: *Provided*, That no fees shall be charged or allowed therefor.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall be authorized and empowered, and hereby is authorized and empowered, to furnish and supply the assistant treasurers or collectors of the United States at San Francisco, State of California, and Portland, State of Oregon, with adhesive stamps, or stamped paper, vellum, or parchment, according to the provisions of the internal revenue laws referred to in the preceding section, under such regulations and conditions as he may from time to time prescribe, and without requiring payment in advance therefor, anything in existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding: *Provided*, That no greater commission shall be allowed than is now provided for by law.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That no instrument, document, writing, or paper of any description, required by law to be stamped, shall be deemed or held invalid and of no effect for the want of the particular kind or description of stamp designated for and denoting the duty charged on any such instrument, document, writing, or paper, provided a legal stamp, or stamps, denoting a duty of equal amount, shall have been duly affixed and used thereon: *Provided*, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to any stamp appropriated to denote the duty charged on proprietary articles.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That all official instruments, documents, and papers, issued or used by the officers of the United States Government shall be, and hereby are, exempt from duty.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the ninety-fifth section of an act entitled "An act to provide internal revenue to support the Government and to pay interest on the public debt," approved July first, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, be so amended that no instrument, document, or paper made, signed, or issued prior to the first day of March, Anno Domini, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, without being duly stamped, or having thereon an adhesive stamp to denote the duty imposed thereon

shall, for that cause, be deemed invalid and of no effect: *Provided*, That no instrument, document, writing, or paper, required by law to be stamped, signed, or issued, without being duly stamped prior to the day aforesaid, or any copy thereof, shall be admitted or used as evidence in any court until a legal stamp or stamps, denoting the amount of duty charged thereon, shall have been affixed thereto, or used thereon, and the initials of the person using or affixing the same, together with the date when the same is so used or affixed, shall have been placed thereon by such person. And the person desiring to use any such instrument, document, writing, or paper, as evidence, or his agent or attorney, is authorized in the presence of the court to stamp the same as hereinbefore provided. And section twenty-four of an act entitled "An act increasing, temporarily, the duties on imports, and for other purposes," approved July fourteen, Anno Domini, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, is hereby repealed.

Instruments, &c., not to be used in evidence until stamped.

Who may affix stamp.

Repeal of act of 1862, ch. 163, § 24. *Ante*, p. 560.

APPROVED, December 25, 1862.

CHAP. V. — *An Act to facilitate the Discharge of disabled Soldiers from the Army, and the Inspection of convalescent Camps and Hospitals.*

Dec. 27, 1862.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That there shall be added to the present medical corps of the army eight medical inspectors, who shall, immediately after the passage of this act, be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, without regard to their rank when so selected, but with sole regard to qualifications, and who shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments now authorized by law to officers of that grade.

Eight medical inspectors to be added to the medical corps of the army.

Selection, rank, pay, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the officers of the medical inspector's department shall be charged, in addition to the duties now assigned to them by existing laws, with the duty of making regular and frequent inspections of all military general hospitals and convalescent camps, and shall, upon each such inspection, designate to the surgeon in charge of such hospitals or camps, all soldiers who may be, in their opinion, fit subjects for discharge from the service, on surgeon's certificate of disability, or sufficiently recovered to be returned to their regiments for duty, and shall see that such soldiers are discharged or so returned. And the medical inspecting officers are hereby empowered, under such regulations as may be hereafter established, to direct the return to duty, or the discharge from service, as the case may be, of all soldiers designated by them.

Additional duty imposed upon medical inspectors.

Inspectors may direct soldiers to return to duty, or may discharge them.

APPROVED, December 27, 1862.

CHAP. VI. — *An Act for the Admission of the State of "West Virginia" into the Union, and for other Purposes.*

Dec. 31, 1862.

*Whereas* the people inhabiting that portion of Virginia known as West Virginia did, by a Convention assembled in the city of Wheeling on the twenty-sixth of November, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, frame for themselves a Constitution with a view of becoming a separate and independent State; and whereas at a general election held in the counties composing the territory aforesaid on the third day of May last, the said Constitution was approved and adopted by the qualified voters of the proposed State; and whereas the Legislature of Virginia, by an act passed on the thirteenth day of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, did give its consent to the formation of a new State within the jurisdiction of the said State of Virginia, to be known by the name of West Virginia, and to embrace the following named counties, to wit: Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Taylor, Tyler, Pleasants, Ritchie, Doddridge, Harrison, Wood, Jackson, Wirt,

West Virginia. Preamble.

Counties composing the State