

To be paid from income of Navy pension-fund. Fees. so far as the same may be sufficient for that purpose: *Provided further*, That the fees for preparing vouchers and administering oaths, which are now by law thirty cents in each case, shall hereafter be twenty-five cents for the same and no more

Approved, June 20, 1874.

June 20, 1874.

CHAP. 336.—An act to fix the time for the election of Representatives in the Forty-fourth Congress from the State of Mississippi.

Election of Representatives in Forty-fourth Congress from Mississippi.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the election for Representatives in the Forty-fourth Congress, from the State of Mississippi, shall be holden on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, anything in the constitution or laws of said State to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved, June 20, 1874.

June 20, 1874.

CHAP. 337.—An act for the government of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

Government of District of Columbia abolished.

1871, ch. 62, vol. xvi, p. 419. Proviso.

Commission created.

Power and authority.

Restrictions and limitations.

Taxes and revenues, how to be applied.

Possession and supervision of offices, books, papers, &c.

Restrictions upon contracts.

Collection of taxes.

Sale or hypothecation, &c., prohibited.

Proviso.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all provisions of law providing for an executive, for a secretary for the District, for a legislative assembly, for a board of public works, and for a Delegate in Congress in the District of Columbia are hereby repealed: *Provided*, That this repeal shall not affect the term of office of the present Delegate in Congress.

SEC. 2. That the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, is hereby authorized to appoint a commission, consisting of three persons, who shall, until otherwise provided by law, exercise all the power and authority now lawfully vested in the governor or board of public works of said District, except as hereinafter limited; and shall be subject to all the restrictions and limitations now imposed by law on said governor or board; and shall have power to apply the taxes or other revenues of said District to the payment of the current expenses thereof, to the support of the public schools, the fire department, and the police, and to the payment of the debts of said District secured by a pledge of the securities of said District or board of public works as collateral, and also to the payment of debts due to laborers and employees of the District and board of public works; and for that purpose shall take possession and supervision of all the offices, books, papers, records, moneys, credits, securities, assets, and accounts belonging or appertaining to the business or interests of the government of the District of Columbia and the board of public works, and exercise the power and authority aforesaid; but said commission, in the exercise of such power or authority, shall make no contract, nor incur any obligation other than such contracts and obligations as may be necessary to the faithful administration of the valid laws enacted for the government of said District, to the execution of existing legal obligations and contracts, and to the protection or preservation of improvements existing, or commenced and not completed, at the time of the passage of this act. All taxes heretofore lawfully assessed and due or to become due shall be collected pursuant to law, except as herein otherwise provided; but said commissioners shall have no power to anticipate taxes by a sale or hypothecation of any such taxes, or evidence thereof: *Provided*, That nothing in this clause contained shall affect any provisions of law authorizing or requiring a deposit of certificates of assessment with the sinking fund commissioners of said District; and said commissioners are hereby author-

ized to abolish any office, to consolidate two or more offices, reduce the number of employees, remove from office, and make appointments to any office authorized by law; and the compensation of all officers and employees, except teachers in the public schools, and officers and employees in the fire department, shall be reduced twenty per centum per annum. Said commissioners shall each, before entering upon the discharge of his duties, take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and to faithfully discharge the duties imposed upon him by law; and shall each give bond in the penal sum of fifty thousand dollars, to be approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office; and shall each receive for his services a compensation at the rate of five thousand dollars per annum: *Provided*, That nothing in this act shall be construed to abate or in any wise interfere with any suit pending in favor of or against the District of Columbia; *And provided further*, That in suits hereafter commenced against the District of Columbia, process may be served on any one of said commissioners, until otherwise provided by law.

SEC. 3. That the President of the United States shall detail an officer of the Engineer Corps of the Army of the United States, who shall, subject to the general supervision and direction of the said board of commissioners, have the control and charge of the work of repair and improvement of all streets, avenues, alleys, sewers, roads, and bridges of the District of Columbia; and he is hereby vested with all the power and authority of, and shall perform the duties heretofore devolved upon, the chief engineer of the board of public works. He shall take possession of, and preserve and keep, all the instruments pertaining to said office, and all the maps, charts, surveys, books, records, and papers relating to said District, or to any of the avenues, streets, alleys, public spaces, squares, lots and buildings thereon, sewers, or any of them, as are now in or belonging to the office of said engineer of the board of public works, and shall, in books provided for that purpose, keep and preserve the records now required to be kept, and such as may be required by regulations of said board. He may, with the advice and consent of said board of commissioners, appoint not more than two assistant engineers from civil life, who shall each receive a salary of one thousand eight hundred dollars per annum, and shall be subject to his direction and control. He shall receive no additional compensation for such services. And he shall not be deemed by reason of anything in this act contained to hold a civil office under the laws of the United States. And no salary or compensation shall be paid to the surveyor of the District, or any of his subordinates, except such fees for special services as are allowed by law. And the offices of assistant surveyor and additional assistant surveyor of the District of Columbia are hereby abolished.

SEC. 4. That for the support of the government of the District of Columbia, and maintaining the credit thereof, for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, there shall be levied upon all real estate in said District, except that belonging to the United States and to the District of Columbia, and that used for educational and charitable purposes, the following taxes, namely: Upon all such real estate in the city of Washington, three dollars on each one hundred dollars of the present assessed value thereof; upon all such real estate in the city of Georgetown, two dollars and fifty cents on each one hundred dollars of the present assessed value thereof; and upon all such real estate in the District of Columbia outside of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, two dollars on each one hundred dollars of the present assessed value thereof: which said taxes shall become due and payable on the first day of November, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, and, if not paid, shall be in arrears and delinquent from that date; and shall, except as herein modified, be assessed and collected as now provided by law for the assessment and collection of general taxes for the District of Columbia; and of the sums so collected, one fourth thereof shall be applied, first, to reimburse the United

Abolishment and consolidation of offices.

Removals and appointments.

Reduction of compensation.

Oath of commissioners.

Bonds.

Compensation.

Pending suits not affected.

Service of process.

Officer of Engineer Corps to be detailed.

Charge of repairs and improvements.

Power and authority of engineer.

Possession, &c., of instruments, maps, records, &c.

Records to be kept and preserved.

Assistant engineers.

Engineer not to receive additional compensation.

Not to be deemed to hold a civil office.

No salary to be paid to surveyor except, &c.

Office of assistant surveyors abolished.

Tax-levy for year ending June 30, 1875.

When taxes to become due and payable.

When to be in arrears.

Assessment and collection.

Application of moneys collected.

States for its advances on account of interest, which shall have been paid by the United States on the funded debt of the District of Columbia and Washington and Georgetown, due and payable July first, eighteen hundred and seventy-four; and the remainder shall be used to pay deficiencies in the various funds for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-four. And all the remainder of said taxes not required for the aforesaid purposes shall be distributed for the purposes and in the proportions provided by the act of the legislative assembly of the District of Columbia, approved June twenty-sixth, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, entitled "An act imposing taxes for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-four," so far as said apportionment is not inconsistent

Evidences of debt not to be received in payment of taxes.

No payment for militia or jail.

Abatement for payment in advance.

Penalty for delinquents.

Collection of taxes in arrears.

List to be made.

Post, 505.

Publication and notice.

Method of sale.

Execution of deed.

Joint select committee to prepare a frame of government, &c.

To report to the two Houses of Congress.

To prepare and submit statement, &c.

May employ assistance.

Appropriation.

First and Second Comptrollers of the Treasury constituted a board of audit.

with this act: *Provided*, That no evidence of debt issued by the District of Columbia, or any branch thereof, or by the board of public works, shall in any manner be received in payment for said taxes: *And provided further*, That no payment shall be made on account of the militia of said District, or for the purpose of erecting a District jail. Upon all payments of said taxes hereby imposed which shall be made in advance of the said first day of November, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, there shall be an abatement allowed of one per centum per month for each and every month so paid in advance; and that upon all said taxes which shall be delinquent and unpaid on said first day of November, there shall be added a penalty of one per centum to the amount thereof, to be collected with such taxes; and a like penalty of one per centum upon the amount thereof shall be added on the first day of each succeeding month to all of said taxes as are then delinquent and unpaid, to be collected as aforesaid. It shall be the duty of the collector of taxes to prepare a complete list of all taxes and property upon which the same are assessed in arrears on the first day of March next, and shall, within ten days thereafter, publish the same, with the notice of sale, in a newspaper published in said District, to be designated by said board of commissioners, for the time and in the manner required by the provisions of the act of the legislative assembly entitled "An act prescribing the duties of certain officers for the District of Columbia, and fixing their compensation," approved August twenty-third, eighteen hundred and seventy-one. And all the provisions of said act as to the sale of property and the collection of taxes in arrears are hereby made applicable to the taxes hereby imposed and in arrears as aforesaid, except that the deed conveying the property so sold shall be executed by the said board of commissioners instead of the governor and the secretary.

SEC. 5. That a joint select committee shall be appointed, consisting of two Senators, to be appointed by the presiding officer of the Senate, and two members of the House, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, whose duty it shall be to prepare a suitable frame of government for the District of Columbia and appropriate draughts of statutes to be enacted by Congress for carrying the same into effect, and report the same to the two Houses, respectively, on the first day of the next session thereof; and they shall also prepare and submit to Congress a statement of the proper proportion of the expenses of said government, or any branch thereof, including interest on the funded debt, which should be borne by said District and the United States, respectively, together with the reasons upon which their conclusions may be based; and in the discharge of the duty hereby imposed, said committee is authorized to employ such assistance as it may deem advisable, at an expense not to exceed the sum of five thousand dollars; and said sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated for that purpose.

SEC. 6. That it shall be the duty of the First Comptroller of the Treasury and the Second Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States, who are hereby constituted a board of audit, to examine and audit for settlement all the unfunded or floating debt of the District of

Columbia and of the board of public works, hereinafter specified, namely: first, the debt evidenced by sewer certificates; secondly, the debt purporting to be evidenced and ascertained by certificates of the auditor of the board of public works; thirdly, the debt evidenced by the certificates of the auditor and the comptroller of the District of Columbia; fourthly, claims existing or hereafter created for which no evidence indebtedness has been issued, arising out of contracts, written or oral, made by the board of public works; fifthly, claims, for which no evidence of indebtedness has been issued, arising out of contracts, written or oral, made by or on behalf of the District of Columbia; sixthly, all claims for private property taken by the board of public works from the avenues, streets, and alleys of the cities of Washington and Georgetown; and, seventhly, all unadjusted claims for damages that may have been presented to the board of public works, pursuant to an act of the legislative assembly of the District of Columbia, entitled "An act providing for the payment of damages sustained by reason of public improvements or repairs," approved June twentieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, which last-named claims shall severally be examined and audited without regard to any examination heretofore made; and shall make a detailed and tabular statement of all claims presented, the persons or corporations owning the same, and the amount found to be due on account of each; together with a tabular statement of the funded debt of the District of Columbia and of the cities of Washington and Georgetown of every kind and character whatsoever, giving the date of issue, time of maturity, and the rate of interest. And it shall further be the duty of said board to ascertain the amount of sewer-tax or assessment paid by any person, persons, or corporation, under the act of the legislative assembly of said District, entitled "An act creating drainage and sewerage sections in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, and providing for the payment of the construction of sewers and drains therein by assessments, and issuing certificates therefor," approved the twenty-sixth day of June, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, and to prepare a tabulated statement thereof. Said board of audit shall also issue to each claimant a certificate, signed by each of said board and countersigned by the comptroller of said District, stating the amount found to be due to each and on what account; and a register thereof shall be kept by said board, to be transmitted to Congress; and also by the comptroller of said District; and said board of audit shall also ascertain and report to Congress, at the next session thereof, the amount equitably chargeable to the street-railroad companies on account of paving along and within the tracks of said companies, pursuant to the charters of said companies or the acts of Congress relating thereto, together with their reasons therefor. It shall further be the duty of said board of audit to examine into and audit all of the accounts of the auditor and of the treasurer of the board of public works, and of the auditor, the treasurer, the collector, and the comptroller of the District of Columbia, from the date of the organization of said board and of the present government of said District; and for the purposes hereinbefore specified shall have the power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, and examine witnesses under oath, and shall have full access to all of the records, books, papers, and vouchers of every kind whatsoever of the board of public works and of the District of Columbia; and to the end that said books and accounts may be thoroughly examined, and the indebtedness of said District, and of the board of public works, and the state of the books and accounts of each of the officers aforesaid, may be accurately ascertained, shall employ one or more skillful and impartial accountants non-resident of the District of Columbia, and such other assistants as they may deem necessary, to make examination of said books, vouchers, and papers, and discharge their other duties under this act, and shall procure inspection of such bank books and papers as may be

Duties of the board.
Classification of indebtedness and claims.

Tabular statements.

Amount of sewer-tax paid to be ascertained.

Tabulated statement.

Certificate to claimants.

Register to be transmitted to Congress.

Amounts chargeable to street-railroad companies.

Accounts to be examined and audited.

Powers of board of audit.

Employment of accountants, &c.

Inspection of bank books and papers.

- Pay of account- necessary; and they are hereby authorized to allow for the services of such accountant or accountants and assistants such sums as they may deem proper which shall be paid by the Board of Commissioners out of the revenues of said District. And said accountant or accountants shall take an oath to faithfully discharge the duties imposed by this act. Said board of audit shall give notice for the presentation of the claims hereinbefore specified in such manner as may be deemed necessary; and no claim shall be audited or allowed unless presented within ninety days after the first publication of such notice, and said board shall make full report of all their acts and proceedings to the President, to be by him transmitted to Congress on the first day of the next session thereof. Each of the said officers constituting said board shall be paid the sum of two thousand dollars for his services under this act, out of the funds of said District, in addition to his present compensation.
- Oath.
- Notice for presen- tation of claims.
- Claims to be pre- sented within ninety days.
- Report to Con- gress.
- Compensation of members of the board.
- Sinking-fund com- missioners.
- Issuè of 50-year 3.65 bonds.
- Bonds exempted from taxation.
- Faith of the United States pledged to secure the payment of interest, &c. *Post*, 332.
- Bonds to be num- bered and regis- tered.
- Prevention of fraudulent issues.
- Exchange of bonds for other indebtedness.
- Annulment of certain powers granted by legislative assembly.
- No property to be advertised or sold for sewer taxes.
- Further issue of sewer certificates prohibited.
- Members of exist- ing commissions, except the governor, continued.
- Approval of act of the legislative as- sembly.
- SEC. 7. That the sinking-fund commissioners of said District are hereby continued; and it shall be the duty of said sinking-fund commissioners to cause bonds of the District of Columbia to be prepared, in sums of fifty and five hundred dollars, bearing date August first, eight- eeen hundred and seventy-four, payable fifty years after date, bearing interest at the rate of three and sixty-five hundredths per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, to be signed by the secretary and the treasurer of said sinking-fund commissioners and countersigned by the comptroller of said District, and sealed as the board may direct; which bonds shall be exempt from taxation by Federal, State, or municipal authority, engraved and printed at the expense of the District of Columbia, and in form not inconsistent herewith. And the faith of the United States is hereby pledged that the United States will, by proper proportional appropriations as contemplated in this act, and by causing to be levied upon the property within said District such taxes as will provide the revenues necessary to pay the interest on said bonds as the same may become due and payable, and create a sinking-fund for the payment of the principal thereof at maturity. Said bonds shall be numbered consecutively, and registered in the office of the comptroller of said District, and shall also be registered in the office of the Register of the Treasury of the United States, for which last named registration the Secretary of the Treasury shall make such provision as may be necessary. And said commissioners shall use all necessary means for the prevention of any unauthorized or fraudulent issue of any of such bonds. And the said sinking-fund commissioners are hereby authorized to exchange said bonds at par for like sums of any class of indebtedness in the preceding section of this act named, including sewer taxes or assessments paid, evidenced by certificates of the auditing board provided for in this act.
- SEC. 8. That the authority conferred on the board of public works to issue additional certificates of indebtedness by section four of the act of the legislative assembly approved on the twenty-ninth day of May, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, is hereby annulled. No property shall be advertised for sale or sold for the collection of any assessment authorized by the legislative assembly by the act entitled "An act creating drainage and sewerage sections in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, and providing for the payment of the construction of sewers and drains therein by assessments and issuing certificates therefor" approved on the twenty-sixth day of June, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, until otherwise ordered by Congress; and it shall be unlawful to issue any further certificates of indebtedness authorized by said act.
- SEC. 9. That no board or commission of which the governor is ex officio a member (the board of public works excepted) shall be abolished by this act, but the members of the same, other than the governor, shall constitute such board or commission.
- SEC. 10. That the act of the legislative assembly of the District of Columbia entitled "An act to fund unsettled liabilities of the city of Washington, and providing for the issuing of the bonds, and levying and collecting taxes to pay the same" approved June twentieth, eight-

een hundred and seventy-two, is hereby ratified and approved; but none of the bonds authorized by said act remaining unsold shall be negotiated or sold at less than par.

Certain unsold bonds not to be negotiated at less than par.

Approved, June 20, 1874.

CHAP. 338.—An act to provide for the apportionment of the Territory of Wyoming for legislative purposes. June 20, 1874.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the apportionment of the Territory of Wyoming for the election of members of the next legislative assembly of said Territory shall be made by the Governor thereof, in accordance with the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "An act to provide a temporary government for the Territory of Wyoming," approved July twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight: *Provided,* That for the purpose of such apportionment it shall not be necessary to take a new or additional census or enumeration of said Territory: *And provided further,* That the power hereby conferred upon the governor shall be continued in full force until an apportionment shall be made by the legislative assembly of said Territory, under the provisions of the organic act thereof.

Apportionment of Wyoming Territory for election of legislative assembly.

1868, ch. 235, vol. xv, p. 178.

New census not to be taken. Power of government continued until, &c.

Approved, June 20, 1874.

CHAP. 339.—An act to encourage the establishment of public marine schools. June 20, 1874.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy, to promote nautical education, is hereby authorized and empowered to furnish, upon the application in writing of the Governor of the State, a suitable vessel of the Navy, with all her apparel, charts, books, and instruments of navigation, provided the same can be spared without detriment to the naval service, to be used for the benefit of any nautical school, or school or college having a nautical branch, established at each or any of the ports of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, and San Francisco, upon the condition that there shall be maintained, at such port, a school or branch of a school for the instruction of youths in navigation, seamanship, marine enginery and all matters pertaining to the proper construction, equipment and sailing of vessels or any particular branch thereof: And the President of the United States is hereby authorized, when in his opinion the same can be done without detriment to the public service, to detail proper officers of the Navy as superintendents of, or instructors in, such schools: *Provided,* That if any such school shall be discontinued, or the good of the naval service shall require, such vessel shall be immediately restored to the Secretary of the Navy, and the officers so detailed recalled: *And provided further,* That no person shall be sentenced to, or received at, such schools as a punishment or commutation of punishment for crime.

Secretary of Navy may furnish vessels for use of nautical schools at certain ports.

Condition.

President may detail officers as superintendents or instructors.

Restoration of vessels and recall of officers, when.

Schools not to be used for penal purposes.

Approved, June 20, 1874.

CHAP. 340.—An act to create two additional land districts in the State of Kansas. June 20, 1874.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all the western portion of the State of Kansas, included as follows, to wit, commencing at the northeast corner of township ten of range sixteen, and running thence west to the western boundary of the State; thence south, along said boundary line, to the fourth standard parallel; thence east, along said

Additional land districts in Kansas established.

Western land district.