

May 13, 1896.

CHAP. 176.—An Act To revive and reenact an Act to authorize the construction of a free bridge across Arkansas River, connecting Little Rock and Argenta.

Arkansas River.
Time extended for
bridging, at Little
Rock, Ark.
Vol. 27, p. 494.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act approved February twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and ninety-three, entitled "An Act authorizing the construction of a free bridge across the Arkansas River, connecting Little Rock and Argenta," which Act has expired by limitation, be, and is hereby, revived and reenacted.

SEC. 2. That section seven of the said Act be amended so as to read as follows:

Commencement and
completion.

"**SEC. 7.** That this Act shall be null and void if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized be not commenced within one year from February twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and ninety-six, and completed within three years from that date."

Approved, May 13, 1896.

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CHAP. 177.—An Act To regulate marriages in the District of Columbia.

District of Colum-
bia.
Marriages.
Minors to obtain con-
sent of parent or guar-
dian.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That if any male person intending to marry in the District of Columbia be under twenty-one years of age, and if a female under eighteen years of age, and has not been previously married, the consent of the father or guardian, or, if there be none, of the mother of such person, shall be given either personally to the clerk of the supreme court of the District of Columbia or his deputy, or in writing subscribed by a witness, who shall make oath before the clerk of said court that said writing was signed or acknowledged in the presence of said witness, by such father, guardian, or mother, as the case may be.

Persons authorized
to celebrate marriages.
R. S. D. C., sec. 718,
p. 86, amended.

SEC. 2. That marriages in the District of Columbia may be celebrated by the judge of any court of record or any justice of the peace. When any minister or other person, appointed or ordained according to the rites and ceremonies of his church, shall, before the supreme court of the District of Columbia, produce proof that he is duly appointed or ordained as such, and that he is in regular communion with the religious society of which he is a member, such court may make an order authorizing him to celebrate the rites of marriage in the District of Columbia. Marriages between persons belonging to any religious society which has no ordained minister may be solemnized by the person appointed and in the manner prescribed by and practiced in any such society.

Persons forbidden.

SEC. 3. That no one but a minister or other person authorized by this Act shall hereafter celebrate the rites of marriage in this District, anything in any law now in force in said District to the contrary notwithstanding.

Previous marriages
valid.

SEC. 4. That no marriage heretofore solemnized shall be deemed or adjudged to be invalid, nor shall the validity thereof be in any way affected, on account of any want of authority in any person solemnizing the same, if consummated with a full belief on the part of the persons so married, or either of them, that they were lawfully joined in marriage.

License to foreign-
ers.

SEC. 5. That no license for any marriage shall hereafter be issued to which any citizen of a foreign country shall be a party until a minister or consul representing such foreign country in the United States shall certify that the conditions to the validity of the marriage of the laws of such country shall have been complied with.

Fee.

SEC. 6. That any person authorized to celebrate the rites of marriage shall be paid by the husband a fee of at least one dollar in each case.

Penalty for noncom-
pliance with law.

SEC. 7. That if any minister, justice of the peace, or other person who is authorized to celebrate marriages in the District of Columbia shall fail to comply with the provisions of section eight of this Act, he shall upon conviction be fined for each and every offense, in the discretion

of the court, not less than fifty nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars.

SEC. 8. That it shall be the duty of the clerk to examine and ascertain under oath the full names, ages, color, whether married previously or single, whether related or not, and, if so, in what degrees, of the parties desiring to marry, which facts shall appear on the face of the application, and shall be in the following form: Application for license.

Number . Application for license. Date, ; names of parties, ; age, ; color, ; relationship, ; number of marriage, ; whether he or she is a citizen of the United States or of a foreign country, ; if a citizen of a foreign country, whether all the requirements of the laws regulating marriage in the country of which he or she is a citizen have been complied with,

Licenses shall be in the following form:

License.

Number .

R. S. D. C., sec. 720, p. 86, amended.

To any minister or other person authorized to celebrate marriages in the District of Columbia, greeting:

You are hereby authorized to solemnize the rites of marriage between , of , and , of , and, having done so, you are commanded to make return of the same to the clerk's office of the supreme court of the said District within ten days, as the law directs.

Witness my hand and seal of said court this day of , anno Domini .

By , Clerk.
Assistant Clerk.

Said return shall be made in person or by mail on a coupon attached to and issued with said license and bearing a corresponding number therewith, within ten days from the time of said ceremony, and shall be in the following form:

Return of certificate.

Number .

R. S. D. C., sec. 722, p. 86, amended.

I, , who have been duly authorized to celebrate the rites of marriage in the District of Columbia, do hereby certify that, by authority of license of corresponding number herewith, I solemnized the marriage of and , named therein, on the day of , at , in said District.

A second coupon of corresponding number with the license shall be attached to and issued with said license, to be given by the officiating minister or other person authorized to celebrate the rites of marriage in said District to the contracting parties, and shall be in the following form:

Certificate of marriage.

Number .

I hereby certify that on this day of , at , and were by me united in marriage in accordance with the license issued by the clerk of the supreme court of the District of Columbia.

Name,
Residence,

SEC. 9. That the clerk shall provide a record book of his office, consisting of applications for and of licenses in the forms prescribed in the preceding section, printed in blank, to be filled by him in accordance with said forms, and said blank applications, licenses, and certificates of the officiating minister or other person authorized to celebrate the rite of marriage shall be numbered correspondingly and consecutively from one upward.

Record of licenses. R. S. D. C., sec. 721, p. 86, amended.

And the said license when produced shall be full authority to any minister or other person authorized to marry receiving the same to proceed with the marriage of the parties named therein.

Effect of license.

Penalty for noncompliance by clerk of court.

SEC. 10. That if the clerk of the supreme court of the District of Columbia shall neglect or refuse to comply with the provisions of this Act he shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than twenty-five dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars, in the discretion of the court.

Record of marriages. R. S. D. C. sec. 723, p. 86, amended.

SEC. 11. That the clerk shall provide a record book of his office, in which shall be filed in the order of their number the certificates upon their return to said office, corresponding to said record book of licenses issued, and a copy of any license and certificate of marriage so kept and recorded and certified by the clerk under his hand and the seal of the court shall be competent evidence of the marriage.

Effect.

SEC. 12. That this Act take effect from and after thirty days from the approval thereof.

Inconsistent laws repealed.

SEC. 13. That sections four, five, six, eight, nine, ten, fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen, in chapter thirty, of the compiled statutes now in force in the District of Columbia, and all laws or parts of laws heretofore in force in this District inconsistent with or in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

Approved, May 13, 1896.

May 14, 1896.

CHAP. 179.—An Act To amend the Act approved March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, granting the right of way upon the public lands for reservoir and canal purposes.

Public lands. Right of way, tramroads, etc. Vol. 27, p. 635.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act entitled "An Act to permit the use of the right of way through the public lands for tramroads, canals, and reservoirs, and for other purposes," approved January twenty-first, eighteen hundred and ninety-five, be, and the same is hereby, amended by adding thereto the following:

Extended to electric power companies.

"SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered, under general regulations to be fixed by him, to permit the use of right of way to the extent of twenty-five feet, together with the use of necessary ground, not exceeding forty acres, upon the public lands and forest reservations of the United States, by any citizen or association of citizens of the United States, for the purposes of generating, manufacturing, or distributing electric power."

Approved, May 14, 1896.

May 15, 1896.

CHAP. 181.—An Act To permit Rene C. Baughman to lay pipes in a certain street in the city of Washington.

District of Columbia. Petroleum pipe line permitted.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia are hereby authorized to grant to Rene C. Baughman permission to lay pipes for the transmission of petroleum and its products in the following-named streets in said city of Washington, to wit: From north block numbered six hundred and ninety-seven along the unpaved portion of Half street southeast, a distance of three thousand feet in a southerly direction to the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River; the said pipe line shall be laid under such regulations and rentals as the Commissioners of the District of Columbia may make in relation thereto.

Amendment.

SEC. 2. That Congress reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act.

Approved, May 15, 1896.

May 15, 1896.

CHAP. 182.—An Act Authorizing the Secretary of War to make certain uses of national military parks.

Military parks. Use by Army and Militia permitted.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to obtain practical benefits of great value to the country from the establishment of national military parks, said parks and their approaches are hereby