

CHAP. 10.—An act to provide for the change of name of the steamboat “Alexis.” May 29, 1879.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to allow the owner of the American built and owned steamboat “Alexis” of New York, to change her name, so that she may hereafter be known as the “Riverdale”.

Steamboat
“Alexis.”

Approved, May 29, 1879.

CHAP. 11.—An act to prevent the introduction of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States. June 2, 1879.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be unlawful for any merchant ship or vessel from any foreign port where any contagious or infectious disease exists, to enter any port of the United States except in accordance with the provisions of this act, and all rules and regulations of State boards of health and all rules and regulations made in pursuance of this act; and any such vessel which shall enter, or attempt to enter, a port of the United States, in violation thereof, shall forfeit to the United States a sum, to be awarded in the discretion of the court, not exceeding one thousand dollars, which shall be a lien upon said vessel, to be recovered by proceedings in the proper district court of the United States. And in all such proceedings the United States district attorney for such district shall appear on behalf of the United States, and all such proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and laws governing cases of seizure of vessels for violation of the revenue laws of the United States.

Contagious diseases.
Vessels from infected ports.

Penalty.

Proceedings.

SEC. 2. All such vessels shall be required to obtain from the consul, vice-consul, or other consular officer of the United States at the port of departure, or from the medical officer, where such officer has been detailed by the President for that purpose, a certificate in duplicate setting forth the sanitary history of said vessel, and that it has in all respects complied with the rules and regulations in such cases prescribed for securing the best sanitary condition of the said vessel, its cargo, passengers, and crew; and said consular or medical officer is required, before granting such certificate, to be satisfied the matters and things therein stated are true; and for his services in that behalf he shall be entitled to demand and receive such fees as shall by lawful regulation be allowed, to be accounted for as is required in other cases.

Bill of health.

Fees.

That upon the request of the National Board of Health the President is authorized to detail a medical officer to serve in the office of the consul at any foreign port for the purpose of making the inspection and giving the certificates hereinbefore mentioned: *Provided,* That the number of officers so detailed shall not exceed at any one time six: *Provided further,* That any vessel sailing from any such port without such certificate of said medical officer, entering any port of the United States, shall forfeit to the United States the sum of five hundred dollars, which shall be a lien on the same to be recovered by proceedings in the proper district court of the United States. And in all such proceedings the United States district attorney for such district shall appear on behalf of the United States, and all such proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and laws governing cases of seizure of vessels for violation of the revenue laws of the United States.

Medical inspectors at consulates.

Number.

Penalty.

Proceedings.

SEC. 3. That the National Board of Health shall co-operate with and, so far as it lawfully may, aid State and municipal boards of health in the execution and enforcement of the rules and regulations of such boards to prevent the introduction of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States from foreign countries, and into one State from another; and at such ports and places within the United States as have no

National Board of Health.

National Board of Health. quarantine regulations under State authority where such regulations are, in the opinion of the National Board of Health, necessary to prevent the introduction of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States from foreign countries, or into one State from another; and at such ports and places within the United States where quarantine regulations exist under the authority of the State, which, in the opinion of the National Board of Health, are not sufficient to prevent the introduction of such diseases into the United States, or into one State from another, the National Board of Health shall report the facts to the President of the United States, who shall, if, in his judgment, it is necessary and proper, order said Board of Health to make such additional rules and regulations as are necessary to prevent the introduction of such diseases into the United States from foreign countries, or into one State from another, which, when so made and approved by the President, shall be promulgated by the National Board of Health and enforced by the sanitary authorities of the States, where the State authorities will undertake to execute and enforce them; but if the State authorities shall fail or refuse to enforce said rules and regulations the President may detail an officer or appoint a proper person for that purpose.

Rules and regulations. The Board of Health shall make such rules and regulations as are authorized by the laws of the United States and necessary to be observed by vessels at the port of departure and on the voyage where such vessels sail from any foreign port or place at which contagious or infectious disease exists, to any port or place in the United States, to secure the best sanitary condition of such vessel, her cargo, passengers, and crew, and when said rules and regulations have been approved by the President they shall be published and communicated to, and enforced by, the consular officers of the United States: *Provided*, That none of the penalties herein imposed shall attach to any vessel or any owner or officer thereof, till the act and the rules and regulations made in pursuance thereof shall have been officially promulgated for at least ten days in the port from which said vessel sailed.

Proviso.

Sanitary reports. SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the National Board of Health to obtain information of the sanitary condition of foreign ports and places from which contagious and infectious diseases are or may be imported into the United States, and to this end the consular officers of the United States at such ports and places as shall be designated by the National Board of Health shall make to said Board of Health weekly reports of the sanitary condition of the ports and places at which they are respectively stationed, according to such forms as said Board of Health may prescribe; and the Board of Health shall also obtain, through all sources accessible, including State and municipal sanitary authorities throughout the United States, weekly reports of the sanitary condition of ports and places within the United States; and shall prepare, publish, and transmit to the medical officers of the Marine Hospital Service, to collectors of customs, and to State and municipal health officers and authorities, weekly abstracts of the consular sanitary reports and other pertinent information received by said board; and shall also, as far as it may be able, by means of the voluntary co-operation of State and municipal authorities, of public associations and private persons, procure information relating to the climatic and other conditions affecting the public health; and shall make to the Secretary of the Treasury an annual report of its operations, for transmission to Congress, with such recommendations as it may deem important to the public interests; and said report, if ordered to be printed by Congress, shall be done under the direction of the board.

By consular officers.

From other sources.

Publication and distribution.

Other information.

Report of operations.

Distribution of regulations. SEC. 5. That the National Board of Health shall from time to time issue to the consular officers of the United States and to the medical officers serving at any foreign port, and otherwise make publicly known, the rules and regulations made by it and approved by the President, to be used and complied with by vessels in foreign ports for securing the best sanitary condition of such vessels, their cargoes, passengers, and

crews, before their departure for any port in the United States, and in the course of the voyage; and all such other rules and regulations as shall be observed in the inspection of the same on the arrival thereof at any quarantine station at the port of destination, and for the disinfection and isolation of the same, and the treatment of cargo and persons on board, so as to prevent the introduction of cholera, yellow fever, or other contagious or infectious diseases; and it shall not be lawful for any vessel to enter said port to discharge its cargo or land its passengers except upon a certificate of the health officer at such quarantine station, certifying that said rules and regulations have in all respects been observed and complied with, as well on his part as on the part of the said vessel and its master, in respect to the same and to its cargo, passengers and crew; and the master of every such vessel shall produce and deliver to the collector of customs at said port of entry, together with the other papers of the vessel, the said certificates required to be obtained at the port of departure, and the certificate herein required to be obtained from the health officer at the port of entry.

Health officer's certificate.

Duty of master of vessel.

SEC. 6. That to pay the necessary expenses of placing vessels in proper sanitary condition, to be incurred under the provisions of this act, the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he hereby is, authorized and required to make the necessary rules and regulations fixing the amount of fees to be paid by vessels for such service, and the manner of collecting the same.

Fees.

SEC. 7. That the President is authorized, when requested by the National Board of Health, and when the same can be done without prejudice to the public service, to detail officers from the several departments of the government, for temporary duty, to act under the direction of said board, to carry out the provisions of this act; and such officers shall receive no additional compensation except for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of such duties.

Detail of officers.

SEC. 8. That to meet the expenses to be incurred in carrying out the provisions of this act, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, to be disbursed under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury on estimates to be made by the National Board of Health, and to be approved by him. Said National Board of Health shall as often as quarterly make a full statement of its operations and expenditures under this act to the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall report the same to Congress.

Appropriation.

Report of expenditures.

SEC. 9. That so much of the act entitled "An act to prevent the introduction of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States", approved April twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, as requires consular officers or other representatives of the United States at foreign ports to report the sanitary condition of and the departure of vessels from such ports to the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service; and so much of said act as requires the Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service to frame rules and regulations, and to execute said act, and to give notice to Federal and State officers of the approach of infected vessels, and furnish said officers with weekly abstracts of consular sanitary reports, and all other acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Repeals.

SEC. 10. This act shall not continue in force for a longer period than four years from the date of its approval.

Duration.

Approved, June 2, 1879.

CHAP. 12.—An act to provide for the exchange of subsidiary coins for lawful money of the United States under certain circumstances, and to make such coins a legal tender in all sums not exceeding ten dollars, and for other purposes.

June 9, 1879.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the holder of any of the

Subsidiary coins.