

more than four hundred feet outside of Bird Island pier, and to erect and maintain an inlet pier therefrom, said inlet pier to be located not more than four hundred feet outside of said Bird Island pier. harbor and Niagara river, &c.

APPROVED, April 20, 1870.

CHAP. LIX. — *An Act to amend the Usury Laws of the District of Columbia.*

April 22, 1870.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the rate of interest upon judgments or decrees, and upon the loan or forbearance of any money, goods, or things in action, shall continue to be six dollars upon one hundred dollars for one year, and after that rate for a greater or less sum, or for a longer or shorter time, except as hereinafter provided. Rate of interest in the District of Columbia to be six per cent. per annum, except, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That in all contracts hereafter to be made it shall be lawful for the parties to stipulate or agree in writing that the rate of ten per cent. per annum, or any less sum, of interest shall be taken and paid upon every one hundred dollars of money loaned, or in any manner due and owing from any person or corporation in this District. Parties may agree in writing to pay ten per cent. per annum or any less sum.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person or corporation in this District shall contract to receive a greater rate of interest than ten per cent. upon any contract in writing, or six per cent. upon any verbal contract, such person or corporation shall forfeit the whole of said interest so contracted to be received, and shall be entitled only to recover the principal sum due to such person or corporation. Penalty for contracting to receive greater rate;

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person or corporation within the District of Columbia shall directly or indirectly take or receive any greater amount of interest than is provided for in this act, upon any contract or agreement whatever, it shall be lawful for the person, or his personal representative, or the corporation paying the same, to sue for and recover all the interest paid upon any such contract or agreement from the person or his personal representatives, or from the corporation receiving such unlawful interest: *Provided,* That the suit to recover back such interest shall be brought within one year after such unlawful interest shall have been paid or taken. for receiving greater rate.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to change the general laws in force in relation to banking associations organized under the act to provide a national currency secured by a pledge of United States bonds and to provide for the circulation and redemption thereof, approved June three, eighteen hundred and sixty-four. Interest paid may be recovered by a suit, if brought within a year. Nothing herein to affect banking associations. 1864, ch. 106. Vol. xiii. p. 99.

APPROVED, April 22, 1870.

CHAP. LX. — *An Act to incorporate the Washington Homeopathic Medical Society.*

April 22, 1870.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Tullio S. Verdi, Gustave W. Pope, C. W. Sonnenschmidt, E. S. Kimball, and Jehu Brainerd, and their associates and successors, physicians, be, and they hereby are, made a corporation by the name of the Washington Homeopathic Medical Society, with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the duties, liabilities, and restrictions set forth in this act. Washington Homeopathic Medical Society incorporated.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That said corporation may hold real and personal estate to the amount of twenty thousand dollars. Estate.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the members of said society, or such of their officers or members [as they shall appoint], shall have the power to practise medicine and surgery and collect their fees within the District of Columbia. Members may practise, &c.;

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the members of said society, or such of their officers or members as they shall appoint, shall have full may examine candidates for membership, &c.

License to practise medicine, &c. in the District of Columbia to be given without exception on account of color.

power and authority to examine all candidates for membership concerning the practice of specific medicine and surgery, provided said candidates shall sustain a good moral character, and shall present letters testimonial of their qualifications from some legally authorized medical institution; and if, upon such examination, the same candidates, without exception on account of color, shall be found qualified for the practice of medicine and surgery, they shall receive the certificate of membership or the license to practise medicine or surgery within the District of Columbia.

Repealing clause.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That any acts or parts of acts conflicting with the provisions of this act be, and are hereby, repealed.

APPROVED, April 22, 1870.

April 22, 1870.

CHAP. LXI.—*An Act for incorporating a Hospital for Foundlings in the City of Washington.*

Washington Hospital for Foundlings incorporated.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That G. W. Samson, O. O. Howard, Z. D. Gilman, William Stickney, A. C. Richards, B. Sunderland, A. N. Zevely, Wright Rives, Dr. James C. Hall, David K. Carter, William B. Todd, Jr., D. W. Middleton, George L. Sheriff, B. B. French, Joseph S. Stettinius, and John R. Arison, and such other persons as may be duly chosen, are hereby created and constituted a body politic and corporate, in the District of Columbia, under the name of the Washington Hospital for Foundlings, to have perpetual succession, and be capable to take, hold, and enjoy lands, tenements, and personal property: *Provided*, That no real or personal property shall be held by said corporation, except such as may be necessary to the maintenance and efficient management of said hospital.

Powers.

Estate.

Vacancies.

By-laws.

Directors, officers, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That said corporation, hereby constituted, shall have power to fill vacancies in the board of directors, and to make all necessary by-laws, rules, and regulations not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the management of said hospital shall be under the control of a board of ten directors. The board of directors shall also have power to appoint all officers and committees necessary to the proper administration of the affairs of the hospital.

First board of directors, president, &c.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the first seven corporators named in the first section hereof, together with those who may be elected and appointed directors, as provided in the preceding section, shall constitute the first board of directors, who shall, from their number, elect a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer; and five of the directors, including either of the above-named officers, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. It shall be the duty of the president and directors to report to the Secretary of the Interior the condition of said institution on the first day of July in each year.

Quorum. Annual report.

Object of association.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the object of this association is to found in the city of Washington a hospital for the reception and support of destitute and friendless children.

Foundlings to be wholly under the guardianship of the institution, until, &c.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That foundlings received by this hospital shall be deemed and considered wholly under the guardianship, care, and control of said institution, to be educated, apprenticed, or otherwise disposed of, in such manner as the directors of said hospital may, in their judgment, deem for the best interests of said children until they shall attain the age of eighteen years, when said care and control shall cease.

Exemption from taxation.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the property, real and personal, held by said corporation shall be exempt from all taxes and assessments levied by authority of Congress or of any municipal corporation within the District of Columbia. Congress may at any time alter, amend, or repeal this act.

Repealing clause.

APPROVED, April 22, 1870.