

June 7, 1872. CHAP. CCCXXI.—*An Act to continue the Act to authorize the Settlement of the Accounts of Officers of the Army and Navy.*

Act authorizing the settlement of accounts of officers, &c., extended.

1870, ch. 153.
Vol. xvi. p. 166.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the act to authorize the settlement of the accounts of the officers of the army and navy, approved June twenty-third, eighteen hundred and seventy, shall continue and be in force for two years from June twenty-third, eighteen hundred and seventy-two and no longer.

APPROVED, June 7, 1872.

June 7, 1872. CHAP. CCCXXII.—*An Act to authorize the Appointment of Shipping-commissioners by the several Circuit Courts of the United States, to superintend the Shipping and Discharge of Seamen engaged in Merchant Ships belonging to the United States, and for the further Protection of Seamen.*

Certain circuit courts may appoint "shipping commissioners" in certain ports, and may remove them;

shall have control over the mode of doing business in the shipping offices.

Shipping-commissioners to give bond with sureties and take oath.

Form of oath.

Oath to be indorsed on commission and subscribed, &c.

Clerks to shipping-commissioners, who may act as commissioners.

Official seal.

Effect of instruments under the seal and signature of commissioner.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the several circuit courts of the United States, in which circuits there is a sea-port or sea-ports for which there is a collector of customs, or in which there is a port of entry, shall appoint a commissioner for such sea-port within their respective circuits as in their judgment may require the same, and which shall also be ports of ocean navigation; such commissioners to be termed "shipping-commissioners;" and may, from time to time, remove from office any of the said commissioners whom it may have reason to believe does not properly perform his duties; and shall provide for the proper performance of such duties until another person is duly appointed in his place; shall regulate the mode of conducting business in the shipping-offices to be established by the shipping-commissioners as hereinafter provided; and shall have full and complete control over the same, subject to the provisions herein contained.

SEC. 2. That every shipping-commissioner so appointed shall enter into bonds to the United States, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties required in his office, for a sum, in the discretion of the circuit judge, of not less than five thousand dollars, with two good and sufficient securities therefor, to be approved by said judge; and shall take and subscribe the following oath before entering upon the duties of his office: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will support the Constitution of the United States; and that I will truly and faithfully discharge the duties of a shipping-commissioner to the best of my ability, and according to law." Said oath shall be indorsed on the commission or certificate of appointment, and signed by him, and certified by the officer before whom such oath or affirmation shall have been taken.

SEC. 3. That any shipping-commissioner may engage a clerk or clerks to assist him in the transaction of the business of the shipping-office, at his own proper cost, and may, in case of necessity, depute such clerk or clerks to act for him in his official capacity; but the shipping-commissioner shall be held responsible for the acts of every such clerk or deputy, and will be personally liable for any penalties such clerk or deputy may incur by the violation of any of the provisions of this act; and all acts done by a clerk, as such deputy, shall be as valid and binding as if done by the shipping-commissioner. Each shipping-commissioner shall provide a seal with which he shall authenticate all his official acts, on which seal shall be engraved the arms of the United States and the name of the sea-port or district for which he is commissioned. Any instrument, either printed or written, purporting to be the official act of a shipping-commissioner, and purporting to be under the seal and signature of such shipping-commissioner, shall be received as prima-facie evidence of the official character of such instrument, and of the truth of the facts therein set forth.