

**CHAP. 213.**—An act to prohibit any officer, agent, or servant of the Government of the United States of America to hire or contract out the labor of prisoners incarcerated for violating the laws of the Government of the United States of America.

Feb. 23, 1887.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That it shall not be lawful for any officer, agent, or servant of the Government of the United States to contract with any person or corporation, or permit any warden, agent, or official of any State prison, penitentiary, jail, or house of correction where criminals of the United States may be incarcerated to hire or contract out the labor of said criminals, or any part of them, who may hereafter be confined in any prison, jail, or other place of incarceration for violation of any laws of the Government of the United States of America.

Hiring out of convicts by prison officials forbidden.

**SEC. 2.** That any person who shall offend against the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned for a term not less than one year nor more than three years, at the discretion of the court, or shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars for each offense.

Penalty.

**SEC. 3.** That all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed; and this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Laws inconsistent repealed.

Approved, February 23, 1887.

**CHAP. 214.**—An act for the relief of Saint Mark's Protestant Episcopal Church in the District of Columbia.

Feb. 23, 1887.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That from and after the passage of this act a certain piece of land situated in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, known as lots nine and eleven, in square seven hundred and eighty-eight of the plan of that city, and occupied by the church known as Saint Mark's Protestant Episcopal Church, and all the buildings, grounds, and property appurtenant thereto and used in connection therewith in the District of Columbia, shall be exempt from any and all taxes or assessments, national, municipal, or county; and all taxes together with the interest and penalties, now due and unpaid upon said property, shall be, and they are hereby, remitted.

Saint Mark's Protestant Episcopal Church, Washington, D. C.

Remission of taxes on real estate.

Approved, February 23, 1887.

**CHAP. 215.**—An act to amend section five of the act entitled "An act to amend the statutes in relation to immediate transportation of dutiable goods, and for other purposes", approved June tenth, eighteen hundred and eighty.

Feb. 23, 1887.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section five of the act entitled "An act to amend the statutes in relation to immediate transportation of dutiable goods, and for other purposes", approved June tenth, eighteen hundred and eighty, be, and the same is hereby, amended so that it shall read as follows, namely:

Immediate transportation act, amended.  
Vol. 21, p. 174.

**SEC. 5.** "That merchandise transported under the provisions of this act shall be conveyed in cars, vessels, or vehicles securely fastened with locks or seals, under the exclusive control of the officers of the customs; and merchandise may also be transported under the provisions of this act by express companies on passenger-trains, in safes, 'pouches', and trunks, which shall be of such size, character, and description and secured in such manner as shall be from time to time prescribed by the

Transportation of sealed merchandise.

Express companies.

Secretary; and in cases where merchandise shall be imported in boxes or packages too large to be included within the safes, trunks, or 'pouches' as prescribed, such merchandise may be transported under the provisions of this act by such express companies, 'corded and sealed', in such manner as shall from time to time be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury; and 'passengers' baggage and effects arriving at any of the ports specified in section one of this act, which shall appear by the manifest of the importing vessel, or other satisfactory evidence, to be destined to any of the ports specified in the seventh section, may also be transported by express companies under the provisions of this act to any of the ports specified in the seventh section thereof, in such manner and under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe'; and merchandise such as pig-iron, spiegle-iron, scrap-iron, iron-ore, railroad-iron, and similar articles commonly transported upon platform or flat cars may be transported under the provisions of this act upon such platform or flat cars; and the weight of such merchandise so transported shall be ascertained in all cases before shipment, and ordinary railroad seals may be used for such purposes; and inspectors shall be stationed at proper points along the designated routes, or upon any car, vessel, vehicle, or train, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, and at the expense of the companies, respectively. Such merchandise shall not be unladen or transshipped between the ports of first arrival and final destination, unless authorized by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury in cases which may arise from a difference in the gauge of railroads, or 'where the route is bonded for both land and water carriage', or from accidents, or from legal intervention, or when, by reason of the length of the route, the cars, after due inspection by customs officers, shall be considered unsafe or unsuitable to proceed further, or from low water, ice, or other unavoidable obstruction to navigation; and in no case shall there be permitted any breaking of the original packages of such merchandise."

Approved, February 23, 1887.

Feb. 23, 1887.

**CHAP. 216.**—An act to authorize the construction of a bridge across the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River at the foot of Pennsylvania avenue east.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause to be constructed across the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River, at the foot of Pennsylvania avenue, in the District of Columbia, a substantial wooden, iron, or masonry bridge, with necessary approaches; and the sum of one hundred and ten thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the construction of said bridge and approaches, the same to be maintained as a free bridge for travel: *Provided,* That the said Secretary of War shall construct a bridge upon such plan as shall cost no more than the amount herein appropriated: *Provided further,* That no part of this appropriation shall be paid out of the Treasury until contracts shall have been entered into with responsible parties, with good and sufficient securities, to be approved by the Secretary of War, for the construction and completion of said bridge, including the approaches, at a cost not to exceed one hundred and ten thousand dollars: *And provided also,* That the sum which may be expended under this act shall be treated and regarded as part of the general expenses of the District of Columbia, and the United States shall be credited with the amount which it may pay under this act for the erection of said bridge upon its fifty per centum of the expenses of the District of Columbia, as provided in the act of June eleventh, eighteen hundred and seventy-six, entitled "An act providing

Secretary of War directed to bridge Eastern Branch of the Potomac, D. C.

Appropriation.

*Provisos.*  
Limit.  
Contract.

Included in District expenses.

Vol. 20, p. 104.