

SEC. 2. That when potatoes are sold by weight the lawful weight of a bushel of potatoes shall be sixty pounds, under a penalty of five dollars for each offense, to be recovered in the police court of the District of Columbia, in the name of the said District, in the same manner as other fines and penalties are recovered.

Sale of potatoes.

Approved, May 30, 1896.

CHAP. 275.—An Act Empowering and directing the Secretary of the Navy to furnish four pieces of condemned cannon to the city of Hastings, Michigan.

May 30, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy is hereby authorized to furnish to the city of Hastings, Michigan, for use in completing the soldiers' monument, four pieces of condemned cannon, if in his judgment it may be consistent with the interests of the public service: *Provided,* That the United States shall not be subjected to any expense on account of such donation.

Condemned cannon.
Donated to Hastings, Mich.

Proviso.
Expense.

Approved, May 30, 1896.

CHAP. 303.—An Act To amend the laws of the District of Columbia as to married women, to make parents the natural guardians of their minor children, and for other purposes.

June 1, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the property, real and personal, which any woman in the District of Columbia may own at the time of her marriage, and the rents, issues, profits, or proceeds thereof, and real, personal, or mixed property which shall come to her by descent, devise, purchase, or bequest, or the gift of any person, shall be and remain her sole and separate property, notwithstanding her marriage, and shall not be subject to the disposal of her husband or liable for his debts, except that such property as shall come to her by gift of her husband shall be subject to, and be liable for, the debts of the husband existing at the time of the gift.

District of Columbia.
Married women.
Absolute right to property acquired.
R. S. D. C., sec. 727, p. 87, amended.

Gifts from husband.

Power of disposal,
contracts, etc.

SEC. 2. That a married woman, while the marriage relation subsists, may bargain, sell, and convey her real and personal property, and enter into any contract in reference to the same in the same manner, to the same extent, and with like effect as a married man may in relation to his real and personal property, and she may, by a promise in writing, expressly make her separate estate liable for necessaries purchased by her or furnished at her request for the family.

Right to trade, etc.

SEC. 3. That any married woman may carry on any trade or business, occupation or profession by herself, or jointly with others, and perform any labor or services on her sole and separate account, and the earnings of any married woman from her trade, business, profession, occupation, labor, or services shall be her sole and separate property, and may be used and invested by her in her own name.

Right to contract,
etc.
R. S. D. C., sec. 729, p. 87, amended.

SEC. 4. A married woman may contract, and sue and be sued in her own name in all matters having relation to her sole and separate property, in the same manner as if she were unmarried; and her husband shall be joined with her, when the cause of action is in favor of or against both her and her husband.

Husband not liable under wife's contract.
R. S. D. C., sec. 730, p. 87.

SEC. 5. Neither the husband nor his property shall be bound by any such contract, made by a married woman, nor liable for any recovery against her in any such suit, but judgment may be enforced by execution against her sole and separate estate in the same manner as if she were unmarried, but she shall be entitled to all the benefits of all exemptions to the heads of families or householders.

Marriage settlements, etc.

SEC. 6. That nothing in this Act contained shall invalidate any marriage settlement or contract.

Antenuptial debts.

SEC. 7. That the husband shall not be liable for the payment of the wife's antinuptial debts, but she shall be liable to all remedies for the recovery of such debts, to be enforced against her and her separate property as if she were unmarried.

Father and mother to be guardians of children.

SEC. 8. That the father and mother shall be the natural guardians of the person of their minor children. If either dies or is incapable of acting, the natural guardianship of the person shall devolve upon the other: *Provided, however,* That in case of the death of either parent from whom the said children may inherit, or take by devise or bequest, the said parent may, by deed or last will and testament, appoint a guardian of the property of the children, subject to the approval of the proper court of the District of Columbia.

Proviso. Guardian of property permitted.

Appointment of guardian.

SEC. 9. That the survivor may by last will appoint a guardian of the person and property of any of the children, whether born at the time of making the will or afterwards, to continue during the minority of the child, or for a less time, subject at all times to removal for cause and appointment of another by the proper court.

Dower in equitable and legal estates.

SEC. 10. That dower shall hereafter be assigned to a widow entitled to the same in the equitable as well as the legal estate of her deceased husband.

Repeals.

SEC. 11. That sections seven hundred and twenty-seven, seven hundred and twenty-nine, and seven hundred and thirty of the Revised Statutes of the United States for the District of Columbia, be and the same are hereby repealed.

Approved, June 1, 1896.

June 1, 1896.

CHAP. 304.—An Act To incorporate the National University.

National University incorporated.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Arthur McArthur, Richard H. Alvey, Charles C. Cole, William B. Webb, Eugene Carusi, H. O. Claughton, Thomas Wilson, Matthew G. Emery, John Goode, Charles Lyman, John T. Winter, Howard H. Barker, and William C. Whittemore, their associates and successors, are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of the National University, with power to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and to have perpetual succession; to acquire, take by devise, bequest, or otherwise, hold, purchase, encumber, and convey such real and personal estate as shall be required for the purpose of its incorporation; to make and use a common seal, and the same to alter at pleasure.

Powers.

Board of trustees.

SEC. 2. That the aforesaid incorporators shall be and constitute a board of trustees for the said university, seven of whom shall constitute a quorum to do business, and which board shall be, and are authorized to fill any vacancies in their number, to appoint such officers and agents as the business of the corporation shall require, and to make by-laws for the accomplishment of its purposes, for the management of its property, and for the regulation of its affairs. Said corporation is hereby empowered to establish and maintain within the District of Columbia a university for the promotion of education. The said corporation shall have power to grant and confer diplomas and the usual college and university degrees, and honorary degrees, and also such other powers as may be necessary fully to carry out and execute the general purposes of the said corporation as herein appearing.

Granting diplomas, etc.

Amendment, etc.

SEC. 3. That this Act may be amended or repealed at any time by the Congress at its pleasure.

Approved, June 1, 1896.