

cost and expense of the owners thereof from time to time, as the Secretary of War may direct, so as to preserve the free and convenient navigation of said river.

SEC. 6. That this Act shall be null and void if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized be not commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date hereof.

Commencement and completion.

SEC. 7. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Amendment, etc.

Approved, January 26, 1897.

**CHAP. 94.**—An Act To incorporate the Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf.

January 26, 1897.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Edward M. Gallaudet, of Washington, in the District of Columbia; Francis D. Clarke, of Flint, in the State of Michigan; S. Tefft Walker, of Jacksonville, in the State of Illinois; James L. Smith, of Faribault, in the State of Minnesota; Sarah Fuller, of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts; David C. Dudley, of Colorado Springs, in the State of Colorado, and John R. Dobyns, of Jackson, in the State of Mississippi, officers and members of the Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf, and their associates and successors be, and they are hereby, incorporated and made a body politic and corporate in the District of Columbia by the name of the "Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf," for the promotion of the education of the deaf on the broadest, most advanced, and practical lines; and by that name it may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any court of law or equity, and may have and use a common seal and change the same at pleasure.

Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf, incorporated.

Object.

SEC. 2. That the said corporation shall have the power to take and hold personal estate and such real estate as shall be necessary and proper for the promotion of the educational and benevolent purposes of said corporation, which shall not be divided among the members of the corporation, but shall descend to their successors for the promotion of the objects aforesaid.

Powers.

SEC. 3. That said corporation shall have a constitution and regulations or by-laws, and shall have power to amend the same at pleasure: *Provided,* That such constitution and regulations or by-laws do not conflict with the laws of the United States or of any State.

Constitution, etc.

*Proviso.*  
Restriction.

SEC. 4. That said association may hold its meetings in such places as said incorporators shall determine, and shall report to Congress, through the president of the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Washington, District of Columbia, such portions of its proceedings and transactions as its officers shall deem to be of general public interest and value concerning the education of the deaf.

Meetings and report.

Approved, January 26, 1897.

**CHAP. 95.**—An Act To enable the town of Flagstaff, in the Territory of Arizona, to issue bonds to construct a water system.

January 26, 1897.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the town of Flagstaff, in the Territory of Arizona, by its mayor and common council, is hereby enabled to issue bonds of the said town, not to exceed sixty-five thousand dollars in amount, payable within thirty years from the date thereof, in lawful money of the United States of America, and to bear interest at not to exceed six per centum per annum, interest payable semiannually, the proceeds of the sale of said bonds, which shall not be sold at less than par, to be used exclusively in the construction of a

Flagstaff, Ariz.  
Issue of bonds authorized for water system.

water system for the said town of Flagstaff; that before said bonds are sold at least thirty days' notice shall be given by publication in one or more newspapers of general circulation, asking for bids for the purchase of said bonds at not less than par.

Surety bond required.

SEC. 2. That at the time said bonds are ready to be issued by the mayor and common council of the said town of Flagstaff the city treasurer of said town of Flagstaff, in whose custody the said bonds, or the proceeds of the sale thereof, shall be kept, shall be required to give an additional bond, to be approved by the mayor and common council of said town, to the said town, in not less than the value of said bonds, or the proceeds of the sale thereof, in his hands, for the safe-keeping of said bonds, or the proceeds of the sale thereof, and to account for the same.

Issue to be voted upon.

SEC. 3. That before said bonds are issued the mayor and common council of the town of Flagstaff shall cause an election to be held, in all respects as elections are now held in said town for the election of town officers, at which election the qualified electors of said town may vote for or against the issuance of said bonds, and should one-third of the votes cast at said election be against the issuance of said bonds, then said town of Flagstaff, by its mayor and common council, shall not issue said bonds.

Approved, January 26, 1897.

January 26, 1897.

CHAP. 96.—An Act To provide for the payment of certain claims against the District of Columbia by drawback certificates.

District of Columbia.

Claims for losses by destruction of Northern Liberty Market to be examined.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the auditor of the supreme court of the District of Columbia is hereby empowered and directed to examine and audit for settlement all claims for property taken, injured, or destroyed by reason of the destruction or removal of the Northern Liberty Market, in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, in September, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, as also all claims for payments made for the purchase, rent, or use of any stall or privilege in said market house and for license for conducting any business therein, to the extent of the unexpired term of said purchase, rent, use, or license.

Issue of drawback certificates.

SEC. 2. That when the auditor has ascertained the amount of the loss as above described, in any case growing out of the removal or destruction of the market as aforesaid, he shall issue a drawback certificate, signed by him as auditor, to the party or parties who suffered such loss or damage, or to their legal representatives, stating the amount found to be due and on what account issued, and shall keep a registry thereof; and said drawback certificates with interest thereon at three and sixty-five one hundredths per centum per annum from September fourth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, shall be received for arrears of taxes due the District of Columbia and unpaid on June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-five.

Interest.

Receivable for arrears of taxes.

Examination by auditor.

SEC. 3. That said auditor shall make a tabular statement of all claims presented, the persons owning the same, and the amount found to be due on account of each; and for the purposes hereinbefore specified said auditor shall have the power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, and examine witnesses under oath, and shall have full access to all of the records, books, papers, and vouchers of every kind whatsoever of the late board of public works and the District of Columbia, and shall provide, by fair and equitable rules, for the examination of the same by claimants or their attorneys. Said auditor shall give notice for the presentation of the claims hereinbefore specified in such manner as he may deem necessary, and no claim shall be audited or allowed unless presented within ninety days after the first publication of such notice; and said auditor shall make full report of all his acts

Report.