

J. Brewer

ACTS

1887-8.

PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

DURING THE SESSION 1887—1888

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ACTS.

Joint Resolution making appropriation for defraying the expenses of the Inauguration of the President and Vice President elect.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

That the sum of Three Hundred dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated to defray the expenses of the Inauguration of the President and Vice President elect.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved December 30th. 1887,

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An Act supplementary and amendatory to an Act regulating the residence of Native Africans within this Republic.

Whereas there are a great many youths both males and females of the aboriginal element, being raised up in families of of the Americo Liberians, becoming to a great extent civilized and christianized : and whereas it is the duty of Government to do all in its power to prevent said persons from reverting back to heathenism ;

Therefore :—It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia, in Legislature Assembled

SEC. 1st. That from and immediately after the passage of this Act, the Aborigines who have been civilized and christianized within this Republic, shall be entitled to draw lands the same as "Emigrant Allotments," and enjoy all the rights, privileges and immunities granted to all other citizens of this Republic.

Any law or parts of law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 12th. 1888.

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Joint Resolution for the relief of Charles R. Johnson formerly of the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County ; but at present a resident of Grand Bassa County.

Whereas C. R. Johnson is now the only surviving male citizen in the Republic of Liberia who settled on the Sherbro Island in the year A. D. 1820, who afterward removed from said Island to the present Capital the City of Monrovia and did aid in founding and settling said City ; who also from the time that the great battle was fought in the year 1822 to the year A. D. 1852 did render this Government invaluable services, as a soldier under the most trying circumstances. And whereas the said C. R. Johnson born in the year A. D. 1812 has now become infirm by being subject to the inconveniences to which the pioneers of this Republic were subject. And whereas it is the policy of this Government to provide for the patriotic pioneers of the same.

Therefore it is Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SEC. 1st. That from and after the passage of this Resolution Charles R. Johnson at present residing in Grand Bassa County for and in consideration of the patriotic services rendered by him as a pioneer in founding and settling the City of Monrovia aforesaid, receive an annuity of Four hundred dollars during his natural life time, to be paid out of the county fund from the Sub-Treasury Grand Bassa County, quarterly. And the President be and he is hereby authorized to draw on the said Treasury for the same out of any monies not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 2nd. It is further Resolved that any laws or parts of laws or resolution conflicting with this Resolution be and the same is hereby repealed.

Approved January 12th. 1888.

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An Act granting the Presbyterian Mission Two Hundred acres of land at Cape Mount, in Montserrado County.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SEC. 1st. That from and after the passage of this Act, that Two Hundred acres of land is hereby granted to the Board of Foreign Mission of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, in that section of Country, in the County of Montserrado, known as Glimah on the Mannah River or Glimah Creek.

SEC. 2nd. It is further enacted that the Land Commissioner shall grant to the Representatives of said Foreign Mission, an order to any legal Surveyor, to survey for said Mission, the above granted lands, he paying all expenses.

SEC. 3rd. It is further enacted that the said Mission shall possess and hold said premises, subject only to the laws governing similar Institutions,

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 12th. 1888.

Resolution authorizing the President of the Republic of Liberia to employ an armed force, domestic or Foreign to subdue the rebellious Greboes in Maryland County.

Whereas the Greboes of Half Cavalla in Maryland County are in a state of rebellion and hostilities, and have taken up arms against the Republic of Liberia. And whereas it is highly important that the supremacy and dignity of the Government should be maintained.

Therefore ; It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SEC. 1. That from and after the passage of this resolution the President of the Republic be and he is hereby authorized and directed to employ and put on foot an armed force, either domestic or foreign, or both, for the purpose of effectually subduing the rebellious Greboes at Half Cavalla in Maryland County, and all other natives who are in rebellion to the Liberian Government.

SEC. 2. It is further resolved that the sum of Twenty five Thousand Dollars is hereby appropriated for the special purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this resolution, and the Secretary of the Treasury is fully authorized and directed under the direction of the President of the Republic of Liberia to stipulate and negotiate a loan for the above amount, upon the best terms and conditions possible, interest not to exceed six per cent.

That the Government reserve to itself the right of redemption at any time, within the terms of months or years, for which the Secretary of the Treasury may grant a bond or bonds for the amount so borrowed in keeping with the provisions of this resolution.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 12th, 1888

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An Act for the better regulation of the Postal Service of this Republic.

It is enacted by the Senate, and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SEC. 1. That from and immediately after the passage of this Act, all letters and other mail matter of any kind and description whatever, shall, be passed through a Post Office of this Republic. All letters and other mail matter coming from Foreign Countries by mail Steamers, and not enclosed in the mail bag with or without post stamps, are subject to double rates of postage.

All letters and other mail matter, coming enclosed in the mail bag without post stamps affixed, but having the appearance of having been stamped, and marked with the date stamps of the office of origin shall be considered as fully prepaid mail matter and shall be delivered free of charges.

SEC. 2. All letters and other mail matter coming through the mails, and not fully prepaid are subject to double the deficiency or balance due at the office of origin : all letters coming outside the mail bag, and containing nothing more than a Bill of Lading shall be considered as Consignees letters, and subject to free delivery : but should the letter contain any correspondence other than a Bill of Lading, shall be subject to one rate of Postage.

SEC. 3. The Post Master of any Post Office of this Republic shall not be bound to deliver any letter or letters or any other mail matter upon which any postage is due, but may hold all such mail matter until postage dues upon the same has been fully paid.

The Postmaster of the several offices shall keep a special account of all monies received for unpaid and insufficiently prepaid mail matter, and shall forward the same under a separate head with their quarterly accounts to the General Post Office.

SEC. 4. The prepayment of all mail matter is compulsory when presented at any of the Post offices for mailing, and the Postmaster of any Post Office shall only receive for mailing letters and such other mailable matter as shall have been fully prepaid. No Master, Agent, Supercargo, nor any other officer, person or persons on board of any sailing vessel, or Steamship shall receive or take for conveyance any letter, letters or other mailable matter but such as shall have been delivered him or them from the Post office. Any person or persons so offending shall be subject to a fine of Five Dollars for the first offence, and for the second offence the sum of Ten Dollars, in either case to be paid forthwith before any Justice of the peace, and in default of payment shall be imprisoned for not less than two weeks and not more than one month.

SEC. 5. The Postmaster General shall furnish the several Post offices of this Republic with a supply of Inland Post stamps, for the accommodation of the general public.

These Inland stamps shall only be available for the postage of all letters and other mailable article from one port to another in this Republic, by sailing vessels and the Steamers of A. Woermann so long as the present contract with the said A. Woermann and this Government exists.

SEC. 6. The rates of domestic postage by sailing vessels or steamers calling at the several ports of Entry, other than British Steamers shall be as follows.

For every letter not exceeding one ounce of three cents one rate.

For every letter over half an ounce, and not exceeding one ounce, two rates.

For every letter over one ounce, and less than two, four rates.

For every letter over two ounces, and less than four, six rates and so on, charging two rates additional for every ounce or fractional part of an ounce.

On all Newspapers of single copy one cent, on Pamphlets not exceeding half an ounce in weight one cent, over half an ounce two rates, and above that weight two cents for every two ounces.

SEC. 7. All express carriers are hereby strictly confined to the safe delivery of all mails delivered them by Heads of Departments, and shall not take or convey any letters or other mailable matter while on their special errand; And should any express carrier take or be found delivering any letter or other mailable matter, he shall upon conviction before any Justice of the Peace be fined the sum of one dollar for the first offence, and for the second offence two dollars, in either case to be collected forthwith or suffer such imprisonment as the court may deem fit to inflict.

SEC. 8. The Heads of Departments in sending mails by express may at their opinion receive letters to be enclosed in their mail provided that each letter is covered by twelve cents in Inland postage stamps, the balance if any be due to be collected by the Postmaster at the office of delivery.

SEC. 9. The several Post offices of this Republic shall be opened daily to the Public for the transaction of business from 6 o'clock A. M. to 4 30 o'clock P. M.

The Postmaster General shall have the right to issue rules and regulations from time to time, as he in his Judgement may deem fit for the improvement of the several Post offices, said rules and regulations shall have the force of law in so far as relates to the management of the Postal Service of this Republic, and on conviction of any Postmaster of this Republic of any crime, before any court of competent Jurisdiction, shall be fined in a sum not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars, and suffer imprisonment in the common Jail for not more than six months.

SEC. 10. Any laws or parts of laws conflicting with any provision of this Act be and the same are hereby repealed.

Approved January 12th, 1888.

An Act Interdicting the Port of Entry and Delivery at Half-Cavalla, Maryland County, in the Republic of Liberia.

Whereas the Heathen Tribe, at Half Cavalla, near Cape Palmas in Liberia have for a long time rebelled against the Laws of the Republic by a determination to nullify the State laws respecting the collection of the revenue arising from Commercial intercourse to this Port, and have also obstructed the high-

ways leading to interior trade and have further invaded a village of civilized christians (once native heathen) driving them from their peaceful homes, and have lately in the most defiant manner, hindered a Company of Missionaries lately from America to Cape Palmas, proceeding to their Missionary work interiorwards, and as the Government of Liberia, have resorted to every reasonable measure to pacify and secure peace and loyalty so much desired without success.

Therefore ; It is enacted by the Senate, and House of Representatives, of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SEC. 1st. That from and immediately after the passage of of this Act, the President be and he is hereby authorized and directed to publish and proclaim an interdict on all that Section of Country known as Half Cavalla, and parts adjacent, and to continue the same until the Legislature direct otherwise.

SEC. 2nd. It is further enacted that from and after the publication of this Act, it shall be unlawful for any Liberian or Foreign vessel of any description whatever, through their Master Supercargoes, Agents or Traders to visit this section of the Country for trade or for any other purpose, until the said Half Cavalla tribe, shall have fully satisfied the Government as to their loyalty. Any person or persons violating the provisions of this Act, shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and on proof and conviction before a court of competent jurisdiction, shall be fined in a sum of not less than one Thousand dollars nor more than two thousand dollars for each offence.

SEC. 3rd. It is further enacted that the President shall cause copies of this Act, with his proclamation through the State Department to be furnished the agents or Managers of the "British and African Steam Navigation Company Limited" as well as the Agents or Managers of the "African Steam Ship Company" through the Liberian Consul Resident in Liverpool, England, and other Steam Ship Companies, whose vessels not knowing may act in violation of this Act.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 12th, 1888.

An Act granting the Protestant Episcopal Mission in Liberia, Two Hundred acres of land in the County of Grand Bassa.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled

SEC. 1. That from and after the passage of this Act, Two Hundred acres of land is hereby granted to the Protestant Episcopal Mission in the County of Grand Bassa.

SEC. 2. It is further enacted that if at any time after the

grant of said land, any minerals should be discovered on any portion of it, the Government shall have the exclusive right or disposal of said deposits.

SEC. 3. It is further enacted that the Land Commissioner for the County of Grand Bassa is hereby authorized to order any Surveyor to survey for said Mission, Two Hundred acres of land out of any public lands in said County, they paying all expenses.

SEC. 4. It is further enacted that the said Mission shall have full power to enjoy and possess said lands under the same regulations governing other benevolent or similar Institutions within this Republic.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 12th 1888.

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A Resolution for the Protection of the Government against the fraud of Aliens.

Whereas the Statute Laws of this Republic relating to naturalization and the admitting of foreigners to citizenship is vague, and whereas it is among other attributes of sovereignty on the part of Governments to determine the conditions and qualifications which shall entitle individuals within their territory or under their Jurisdiction to political participation, as well as to impose conditions upon which their citizens may expatriate.

Therefore it is Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled ;

SEC. 1. That from and after the adoption of this resolution, the President be and he is hereby requested to cause to be negotiated and concluded through the Diplomatic representatives and Consuls of this Government such conventions in addition to our treaties with other nations, as will protect the Government of Liberia, against the fraud of aliens who seek naturalization in Liberia without any design of subjecting themselves by permanent residence to the duties and burdens of citizenship, but solely to fraudulently enjoy the advantages of two nationalities and to escape the duties and burdens of both.

Approved January 16th, 1888.

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An Act restoring James M. Curd and Peter Hilton to Citizenship.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SEC. 1st. That from and immediately after the passage of this Act James M. Curd and Peter Hilton of Montserrado County be and they are hereby restored to all the rights and privileges granted to all other Citizens of this Republic.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 16th. 1888

An Act granting the Citizens of Maryland County, assistance in repairing the causeway that connects the two wards of the City of Harper, known by the names of Latrobe and Hoffman Station.

Whereas there was a sum of money appropriated by the Legislature, some years ago to construct the abovementioned causeway, and owing to the inadequacy of the amount of money thus appropriated for the same, the company never has been permanently secured from the action of the water. And whereas the Citizens have been endeavoring to line both sides of the causeway with stones, in order to save it from time to time. And whereas the same causeway has been recently cut through and washed away by the water in several places. and whereas it is now absolutely necessary at the present crisis, that the Government should have the facility of more frequent intercourse between the wards.

Therefore, It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SEC. 1st. That the sum of Two hundred and fifty dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated to assist the citizens of the County of Maryland to repair the aforementioned causeway between Latrobe and Hoffman Station.

SEC. 2nd. The President be and he is hereby authorized to draw the aforementioned sum of money out of any money in the Public Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 16th, 1888

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An Act restoring Thomas H. Johnson of Maryland County and Sarah E. Barnny, David Bryant and Samuel Jackson of Montserrado, Republic of Liberia, to the rights and privileges of citizenship.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SEC. 1st. That from and after the passage of this Act, that Thomas H. Johnson, of Maryland County, Sarah E. Barnny David Bryant, and Samuel Jackson of Montserrado County be and they are hereby restored to all the rights, privileges and immunities granted to all other good citizens of this Republic.

Approved January 16th. 1888,

Resolution proposing Amendments to the Constitution to be submitted to the people at the next biennial election to be held A. D. 1889.

It is Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SEC. 1st. That Section 17th. of article 5th. which provides that the Constitution may be altered whenever two thirds of both branches of the Legislature shall deem it necessary in which case the alteration or amendments shall first be considered and approved by the Legislature, by the concurrence of two thirds of the members of each branch and afterward by them submitted to the people and adopted by two thirds of the Electors at the next biennial meeting for the election of Senators and Representatives, be so altered and amended as to read this Constitution may be altered whenever two thirds of both branches of the Legislature shall deem it necessary and afterwards by them submitted to the people and adopted by two thirds of all the Electors at any special election ordered by two thirds of each branch of the Legislature.

SEC. 2nd. The Ballot shall read Adoption or No Adoption.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January. 16 1888.

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An Act repealing certain portion of An Act entitled An Act providing for and restricting the payment of Import and Export duties in each County of this Republic.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SEC. 1st. That from and immediately after the passage of this Act, the latter clause of the second section beginning with the word provided on the 11th line be and the same is hereby repealed.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 16th, 1888.

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An Act making a special appropriation to pay one C. H. Morgan the sum of One Hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents, for services rendered the Government as Deputy Collector for the Port of Cavalla, Maryland County.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SEC. 1st. The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and instructed to pay to C. H. Morgan of Cape Palmas, Mary-

land County the sum of One Hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents out of any monies not otherwise appropriated.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 16th, 1888.

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An Act to employ a scientific Mineralogist and Geologist, to make researches for valuable mines in this Republic.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SEC. 1. That immediately after the passage of this Act the President is directed to procure through our Diplomatic Agent, either in Europe or America, a Scientific Mineralogist and Geologist, at a reasonable sum per month, for not more than twelve (12) months or one year, associated with B. J. K. Anderson, to make researches in any part of the Republic for valuable mine or mines of any kind.

SEC. 2. Should any valuable mine or mines be discovered by said Mineralogist, he is to make out a clear report of the percentage of deposits, and upon said report, the President is authorized to put the same before the market world for contractors, who may be desirous of working the mine or mines, under such terms and conditions to be agreed upon by said Contractors and the President ; the same subject to the ratification of the Legislature.

SEC. 3rd. Whatever amount may be coming to the Republic, under the agreement made by the Republic with Contractors, for the right of working said mine or mines, the same shall be entirely appropriated to the liquidation of whatever balance may be remaining due on the Loan of 1870 until it is paid.

SEC. 4th It is further enacted, that for the meeting of the expenses of carrying out the foregoing Act, the sum of Three Thousand Dollars is hereby appropriated out of the One Tenth reserved for liquidating "Foreign Claims."

All laws or parts of laws conflicting with this Act, the same are hereby repealed.

Approved January 16th, 1888.

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Resolution exempting La Compagnie Francaise de L' Afrique Occidentale, that is to say the French Company of Western Africa line of Mail Steamers from tonnage dues in consideration of certain services to be rendered to the Republic of Liberia by said line of Mail Steamers.

It is Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SEC. 1. That from and immediately after the passage of this Resolution La Compagnie Francaise de L' Afrique Occidentale, that is to say the French Company of Western Africa; line of Mail Steamers are exempted from tonnage dues at the several Ports of Entry within this Republic.

SEC. 2. That from and after the passage of this Resolution, La Compagnie Francaise de L' Afrique Occidentale, that is to say the French Company of Western Africa engages with the Republic of Liberia, for and in lieu of the Aforesaid tonnage dues to carry all foreign and domestic mail, for the said Republic, to convey the members and officers of the Legislature of Liberia His Excellency the President, Vice President and other Government commissioned officers, when travelling on official duty, from one County to another within the limits of Liberia without being required to pay any additional charges for the services rendered by said line of Mail Steamers as are provided for in this section.

SEC. 3. That from and after the passage of this Resolution, that all the persons travelling in the said line of Mail Steamers under the provisions of the last section of this Resolution shall in all respects be treated as first class cabin passengers.

SEC. 4. All laws or parts of laws conflicting with the provisions of this Resolution be and the same are hereby repealed.

Approved January 19th, 1888.

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