

THE  
STATUTES AT LARGE

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

FROM

MARCH, 1897, TO MARCH, 1899,

AND

RECENT TREATIES, CONVENTIONS, EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATIONS,

AND

THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS OF THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

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# PUBLIC ACTS OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH CONGRESS

OF THE

## UNITED STATES

*Passed at the third session, which was begun and held at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, on Monday the fifth day of December, 1898, and was adjourned without day on the third day of March, 1899.*

WILLIAM MCKINLEY, President; GARRET A. HOBART, Vice-President and President of the Senate; WILLIAM P. FRYE, President of the Senate, *pro tempore*; THOMAS B. REED, Speaker, and SERENO E. PAYNE, Speaker *pro tempore*, of the House of Representatives.

**CHAP. 28.**—An Act To amend the laws relating to American seamen, for the protection of such seamen, and to promote commerce.

December 21, 1898.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section forty-five hundred and sixteen of the Revised Statutes be, and is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

American seamen.  
Protection of, etc.

“SEC. 4516. In case of desertion or casualty resulting in the loss of one or more seamen, the master must ship, if obtainable, a number equal to the number of those whose services he has been deprived of by desertion or casualty, who must be of the same grade or rating and equally expert with those whose place or position they refill, and report the same to the United States consul at the first port at which he shall arrive, without incurring the penalty prescribed by the two preceding sections.”

Replacing lost seamen.  
R. S., sec. 4516, p. 873, amended.

SEC. 2. That section forty-five hundred and twenty-two of the Revised Statutes be, and is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

“SEC. 4522. At the foot of every such contract to ship upon such a vessel of the burden of fifty tons or upward there shall be a memorandum in writing of the day and the hour when such seaman who shipped and subscribed shall render himself on board to begin the voyage agreed upon. If any seaman shall neglect to render himself on board the vessel for which he has shipped at the time mentioned in such memorandum without giving twenty-four hours' notice of his inability to do so, and if the master of the vessel shall, on the day in which such neglect happened, make an entry in the log book of such vessel of the name of such seaman, and shall in like manner note the time that he so neglected to render himself after the time appointed, then every such seaman shall forfeit for every hour which he shall so neglect to render himself one-half of one day's pay, according to the rate of wages agreed upon, to be deducted out of the wages. If any such seaman shall wholly neglect to render himself on board of such vessel, or having rendered himself on board shall afterwards desert, he shall forfeit all of his wages or emoluments which he has then earned.”

Penalty for omitting to begin voyage.  
R. S., sec. 4522, p. 874, amended.

SEC. 3. That section forty-five hundred and twenty-six of the Revised Statutes be, and is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

“SEC. 4526. In cases where the service of any seaman terminates before the period contemplated in the agreement, by reason of the loss or wreck of the vessel, such seaman shall be entitled to wages for the time of service prior to such termination, but not for any further period.

Termination of wages by loss of vessel.  
R. S., sec. 4526, p. 875, amended.

**CHAP. 425.**—An Act Making appropriations for the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors, and for other purposes.

March 3, 1899.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums of money be, and are hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be immediately available, and to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers, for the construction, completion, repair, and preservation of the public works hereinafter named:

Improving Moosabec Bar, Maine: Completing improvement, eleven thousand dollars.

For construction of breakwater from Mount Desert to Porcupine Island, Maine: Continuing improvement, twenty thousand dollars.

Improving harbor at Sullivan Falls, Maine, in accordance with the approved project, five thousand dollars.

Improving Carvers Harbor, at Vinalhaven, Maine: Continuing improvement, fifteen thousand dollars.

Improving harbor at Cape Porpoise, Maine, in accordance with the report printed in House Document Number One hundred and sixty, Fifty-fifth Congress, third session, seventy thousand dollars: *Provided*, That a contract or contracts may be entered into by the Secretary of War for such materials and work as may be necessary to complete the project recommended in said report, to be paid for as appropriations may from time to time be made by law, not to exceed in the aggregate fifty-five thousand dollars, exclusive of the amount herein appropriated.

Improving harbor of refuge at Little Harbor, New Hampshire: Continuing improvement, twelve thousand dollars.

Improving harbor at Burlington, Vermont: Continuing improvement, fifteen thousand dollars.

Improving harbor at Boston, Massachusetts: Continuing improvement, seventy-five thousand dollars: *Provided*, That this sum may, in the discretion of the Secretary of War, be used in the preservation and improvement of said harbor, including the protection of Great Head and other headlands and islands in and about said harbor, to prevent further washing away by the sea: *Provided further*, That five thousand dollars of this sum may, in the discretion of the Secretary of War, be used in improving Chelsea Creek: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of War may use five thousand dollars thereof and enter into a contract or contracts for such materials and work as may be necessary for the completion of the improvement in accordance with the project recommended in the report printed on pages eight hundred and eighty-seven et sequentes of the Report of the Chief of Engineers for eighteen hundred and ninety-eight; such improvement to provide for a channel one thousand two hundred feet wide and thirty feet deep from the main ship channel in President Roads through Broad Sound Channel, to be paid for as appropriations may from time to time be made by law, not to exceed in the aggregate four hundred and fifty thousand dollars, exclusive of the amount herein and heretofore appropriated.

Improving harbor of refuge at Nantucket, Massachusetts: Continuing improvement, twenty thousand dollars.

Improving harbor at Newburyport, Massachusetts: Continuing improvement, twenty-five thousand dollars: *Provided*, That of this appropriation a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars may, in the discretion of the Secretary of War, be expended in removing from Newburyport Harbor, a rock, called "North Rock."

Improving harbor at Plymouth, Massachusetts: For maintenance, ten thousand dollars; for repairs made necessary by the great storm of November, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, according to plans and estimate submitted January twentieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, seventy-five thousand dollars.

Improving harbor at Provincetown, Massachusetts: For maintenance, ten thousand dollars.

Appropriations for rivers and harbors.

Moosebec Bar, Me.

Breakwater, Mount Desert, Me.

Harbors, Sullivan Falls, Me.

Vinalhaven, Me.

Cape Porpoise, Me.

*Proviso.*  
Contracts.

Little Harbor, N. H.

Burlington, Vt.

Boston, Mass.  
*Proviso.*  
—Great Head, etc.

Chelsea Creek.

Contracts.

Channel from ship channel, President Roads, etc.

Nantucket, Mass.

Newburyport, Mass.  
*Proviso.*  
—removing "North Rock."

Plymouth, Mass.

Provincetown, Mass.

Improving Sarasota Bay, Florida: Continuing improvement, five thousand dollars.

Sarasota Bay, Fla.

Improving Indian River, Florida: By dredging channel at Negro Cut near Indian River Inlet, five thousand dollars; and the unexpended balance of the amount heretofore appropriated may be expended in the construction of training wall or piling for the protection of the dredged channel.

Indian River, Fla.

Improving Upper Chipola River, Florida, in accordance with the project submitted, five thousand dollars.

Upper Chipola River, Fla.

Improving Anclote River, Florida, in accordance with the project submitted, five thousand dollars.

Anclote River, Fla.

Improving Black Water River, Florida, from Milton to its mouth, in accordance with the project submitted, five thousand dollars.

Black Water River Fla.

Improving Holmes River, Florida, from Vernon to its mouth: So much of the unexpended balance as is necessary in the opinion of the Secretary of War is hereby reappropriated for maintenance in accordance with the existing project.

Holmes River, Fla.

Improving Saint Johns River, Orange Mills Flats, Florida, in accordance with the approved project, forty thousand dollars.

St. Johns River, Fla.

The sum of thirty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, to be expended, in the discretion of the Secretary of War, in the purchase or construction of a suitable dredge, with snagging outfit, to be used in connection with the several works of river and harbor improvement on the coast of Florida and the waters tributary thereto.

Dredge, etc., Florida improvements.

The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, for the construction of a boat suitable for operating on the navigable streams of the State of Florida, in removing therefrom the aquatic plant known as the water hyacinth, so far as it is an obstruction and hindrance to interstate or foreign commerce; also, one thousand dollars for log booms to be used as adjuncts to such steamer, and ten thousand dollars for conducting the necessary operations, making thirty-six thousand dollars in all, according to the estimate and recommendation of the War Department as found in House Document Number Ninety-one, Fifty-fifth Congress, third session.

Boat to remove the water hyacinth.

—expenses, etc.

Improving Alabama River, Alabama: Continuing improvement, fifty thousand dollars.

Alabama River, Ala.

Improving Black Warrior River, Alabama, from Tuscaloosa to Daniels Creek: Continuing improvement, fifty thousand dollars: *Provided*, That a contract or contracts may be entered into by the Secretary of War for such materials and work as may be necessary to construct Lock and Dam Numbered Four, above Tuscaloosa, to be paid for as appropriations may from time to time be made by law, not to exceed in the aggregate one hundred and forty thousand five hundred dollars, exclusive of the amount herein and heretofore appropriated.

Black Warrior River, Ala.  
*Provido.*  
Contracts.

Improving Warrior and Tombigbee rivers, Alabama: Continuing improvement of Warrior River, two hundred and twenty thousand dollars: *Provided*, That a contract or contracts may be entered into by the Secretary of War for such materials and work as may be necessary to construct three locks and dams next below Tuscaloosa, to be paid for as appropriations may from time to time be made by law, not to exceed in the aggregate four hundred and forty thousand dollars, exclusive of the amount herein and heretofore appropriated.

Warrior and Tombigbee rivers, Ala.

*Provido.*  
Contracts.

Improving Tombigbee River from Fulton to Columbus: Continuing improvement and for maintenance, five thousand dollars.

Tombigbee river.

Improving Tombigbee River from Demopolis, Alabama, to Columbus, Mississippi: Continuing improvement, ten thousand dollars.

Improving Tombigbee River from Walkers Bridge to Fulton: Continuing improvement and for maintenance, one thousand dollars.

Improving Tombigbee River, Alabama, from mouth to Demopolis:

The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, for the construction of a boat suitable for operating on the navigable streams of the State of Louisiana in removing therefrom the aquatic plant known as the water hyacinth, so far as it is an obstruction and hindrance to interstate or foreign commerce; also, one thousand dollars for log booms to be used as adjuncts to such steamer, and ten thousand dollars for conducting the necessary operations, making thirty-six thousand dollars in all, according to the estimate and recommendation of the War Department as found in House Document Number Ninety-one, Fifty-fifth Congress, third session.

Boat for waters of Louisiana to remove the water hyacinth.

-expenses, etc.

Improving Bayou Teche, Louisiana: Continuing improvement, ten thousand dollars.

Bayou Teche, La.

Improving Mermentau River and tributaries, Louisiana: Completing improvement, six thousand one hundred and fifteen dollars and twenty-five cents.

Mermentau River, La.

Improving Johnson's Bayou, Louisiana: Completing improvement in accordance with the approved project, two thousand five hundred dollars.

Johnson's Bayou, La.

Improving Bayou Courtableau, Louisiana: Continuing improvement, by removal of the raft at its mouth and preventing re-formation thereof, twenty thousand dollars.

Bayou Courtableau, La.

Improving Trinity River, Texas: Continuing improvement, seven thousand dollars: *Provided*, That out of said sum the Secretary of War is hereby directed to cause a preliminary survey of said Trinity River to be made from its mouth to the city of Dallas, with separate estimates of the cost of procuring a navigable depth at low water of four feet, five feet, and six feet, respectively, in said river, by locks and dams or otherwise; said report to include the best method for improving the river, and such report may be made so as to divide said river into separate sections, with a statement of the advisability of such improvement.

Trinity River, Tex.

*Proviso.*  
Preliminary survey of, etc.

Improving Sabine River, Texas: For maintenance, two thousand dollars.

Sabine River, Tex.

For the improvement of the Brazos River between Velasco and Richmond, West Galveston Bay Channel, Double Bayou, and the mouths of adjacent streams, sixty-five thousand dollars, out of which said sum a suitable dredge and snagging outfit may be provided to carry on said work and to be used on other approved projects on the Texas coast, including streams emptying into the Gulf of Mexico and bays connected therewith.

Brazos River.

West Galveston Bay Channel, Double Bayou, etc.

Improving the mouths of the Sabine and Neches rivers, ten thousand dollars: *Provided*, That from said amount there shall be paid the expenses of making a survey by a board of engineers to be designated by the Secretary of War, and said board shall make a reexamination of the proposed channel through Sabine Lake and make a report thereon.

Sabine and Neches rivers.

*Proviso.*  
Board to reexamine channel through Sabine Lake.

Improving Arkansas River, Arkansas and Indian Territory: Continuing improvement, one hundred thousand dollars: *Provided*, That the Secretary of War may, in his discretion, use so much of said sum as may be necessary to repair and protect existing dikes, and to remedy and guard against any injury to the harbors or river banks in their vicinity that may have been injured or endangered by reason of changes in the channel or encroachments of the river at or near Pine Bluff, Little Rock, Dardanelle, Van Buren, and Fort Smith, for the purpose of confining the river to the adopted channel, so as to give ease and safety to navigation: *Provided further*, That in the discretion of the Secretary of War the sum of fifty thousand dollars of said amount hereby appropriated may be used in removing snags, sand bars, and other obstructions to navigation in said river, and in repairing and operating snag boats. The President is authorized to appoint a board of three from the Corps of Engineers, whose duty it shall be to thoroughly examine the Arkansas River and report as soon as practicable to the

Arkansas River, Ark. and Ind. T.

*Proviso.*  
Distribution.

Removing snags, etc.

Board to examine river.