OFFICIAL.

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Passed at the Second Session of the Thirty-seventh Congress.

[PUBLIC—No. 60.]

AN ACT to provide for the public instruction of youth in primary schools throughout the county of Washington, in the District of Columbia, without the limits of the cities of Washington and Georgetown.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Levy Court of the county of Washington, in the District of Columbia, at their first meeting after the passage of this act, shall appoint seven intelligent inhabitants of the said county, who shall reside without the limits of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, two of whom shall be residents of that portion of the said county lying and being West of Rock Creek and the Eastern Branch, three between Rock Creek and the Eastern Branch, and two East and South of the Eastern Branch, to be Commissioners of Primary Schools for said county, which said commissioners shall hold their offices until the second Monday in May, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and until others are appointed in their places; and in case any of the said commissioners thus appointed or to be appointed as aforesaid shall refuse to serve, or die, or remove from the county, or become incapable of serving, the vacancy or vacancies shall be filled by the Levy Court as soon as practicable.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That each of the said commissioners, before he enters upon the execution of his office, and within fifteen days after notification of his appointment by the said Levy Court, shall take and subscribe an oath before some Justice of the Peace of the said county, in the form following, that is to say: "I, ——, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, (or affirm, as the case may be,) that I will in all things, to the best of my knowledge and ability, well and truly execute the trust reposed in me as commissioner of primary schools for the county, without favor or partiality;" and every justice of the peace before whom such oath shall be taken shall, without fee or reward, certify the same in writing, and, within eight days thereafter, transmit or deliver said certificate to the Clerk of the Levy Court for record.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the commissioners of primary schools, or a majority of them, to divide the county into seven suitable and convenient school districts, two of which shall be located West of Rock Creek, three between Rock Creek and the Eastern Branch, and two East and South of the Eastern Branch, and to alter and regulate the same as hereinafter provided. And it shall be the futher duty of the commissioners of primary schools aforesaid, immediately after the formation or alteration of any such school districts in said county, to describe and number the same, and deliver the description and number thereof, in writing, to the Clerk of the Levy Court, who is hereby required to receive and record the same in the records of that court without fee or reward: *And provided*, That in laying off said school districts, or in altering the same, no tracts, or parts of tracts, of land lying contiguous and forming one farm, shall be divided so that portions of the same property shall be included in two separate districts.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners may alter and change the school districts with a view to their better arrangement and the more general convenience of the people: *Provided, however*, That unless the trustees of the districts so to be altered or changed shall assent thereto, no such alteration or change shall be made.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the county collector to notify the different officers to be appointed, in virtue of the provisions of this act, of their appointments within ten days after his having received notice of such appointments from the appointing power, whose duty it shall be to give such notice to the county collector aforesaid.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners shall hold two stated meetings in each year, which meetings shall be held at such place and at such times as shall be determined on by said commissioners, and of which they shall give public notice in each of said school districts, and such other meetings as circumstances may from time to time require; but if less than three members attend any meeting no business shall be transacted thereat, except that of adjourning to some time and place to be agreed on by the commissioners present, and at all meetings of said commissioners the treasurer of the school fund of the county hereinafter to be appointed shall attend and lay before them his books and accounts for their inspection and examination.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners shall cause to be kept a regular record of all their acts and proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose, and said record, or a copy thereof, certified to be correct under the hands and seals of a majority of said board of commissioners shall be considered evidence of their acts and proceedings in all judicial proceedings. And the board of commissioners aforesaid shall have power to appoint a clerk, prescribe his duties, and pay him a salary, and also to allow the treasurer of the school fund, hereinafter to be appointed, an annual compensation for his services out of the general school funds hereinafter to be provided: *Provided*, That neither the said clerk nor treasurer, shall be paid more than one hundred dollars per annum.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That on the second Monday in May, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and annually thereafter, the said Levy Court shall appoint one of said board of commissioners from each primary school district; and the said commissioners appointed as aforesaid shall, each acting in his respective district, examine all persons who shall offer themselves as candidates for teaching in such district; and in such examination it shall be the duty of the commissioners aforesaid to inquire, and, so far as he shall be enabled thereto, to ascertain and inform himself as to all the qualifications mentioned and contained in the certificate hereinafter specified and given in form; and if he shall be satisfied as to the sufficiency of such qualifications he shall certify in writing, under his hand, and deliver such certificate to the person so examined by him as aforesaid in form and substance following: "I, the undersigned, resident commissioner of primary schools of district No. ——, do certify that I have examined ——, and do believe he (or she, as the case may be,) is of a good moral character and of sufficient learning and ability, and in all other respects well qualified to teach a primary school. Given under my hand the —— day of —— in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ——."

—— commissioner of primary school district No. ——." And dismiss any intemperate, cruel, negligent, or immoral teachers, and cause to be put up in every school house such general system of rules and regulations as may be adopted by the board of commissioners, which board shall also direct what books shall be used, and what branches shall be taught, and the resident commissioners aforesaid shall visit the schools in each of their respective districts at least twice a year, exercise a general supervision, and endeavor to promote a full, equal, and useful instruction of the youth of said county.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever any school district shall be formed by the commissioners of primary schools as aforesaid it shall be the duty of the said commissioners, within twenty days thereafter, to make a notice inserting describing the metes and bounds of such district, and appoint a time and place for the first district meeting, and notify the taxable white inhabitants residing in such district as aforesaid, by public advertisements to be put up at the most public places of the said district, at least six days before the time of such meeting; and in case such notice shall not be given as aforesaid, or the inhabitants of such district when so notified shall neglect or refuse to assemble or form a district meeting in pursuance of such notice, or in case any district, having been formed or organized in pursuance of such notice, shall, in the opinion of the commissioners aforesaid, be dissolved by adjournment without day, or from any other cause whatever, it shall and may be lawful for the commissioners aforesaid, or any one of them, at any time thereafter, to renew such notice, and the white inhabitants of such district liable to pay taxes as aforesaid shall assemble together, in pursuance of such notice, and when so assembled in district meeting it shall and may be lawful for them, or a majority of such of them as shall be present at such district meeting, to adjourn to any other time or place; and at such first or any future legal district meeting it shall and may be lawful for them, or a majority of them as shall be present as aforesaid, to adjourn from time to time, as occasion may require, to fix on a time and place for holding their future annual meetings, which annual meetings they are hereby authorized and required to hold; to choose by ballot three trustees to manage the concerns of such school district, and one district collector; also to designate a suitable and central site for a school-house, to vote a tax on the property in such school district owned by white persons sufficient, in addition to the proportion of the school fund (hereinafter to be provided for) allotted to such school district; to purchase, lease, or rent a site for a school-house; to build, lease, or rent and keep in repair said house; to supply fuel, books, stationery, and furniture; to pay the salary of a teacher, and all other necessary expenses: *Provided, however*, That no location of a school-house shall be fixed upon unless the same be approved by a majority of the commissioners, such to manage shall be made after such school-house shall have been built but by consent of a majority of said commissioners; all the expenses incurred by making such change shall be defrayed by donation or by levies authorized to be made by a majority of the white citizens of such school district upon the assessable property therein owned by white persons.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the clerk of the Levy Court shall annually, without fee or reward, make out for the trustees of primary school districts, or such of them as shall apply for the same, copies from the assessment books of said county, of all the assessable property in said district or districts.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That all meetings of the school districts, held for the purpose aforesaid, shall be organized by appointing a president and clerk *pro tempore*, who shall take minutes of the proceedings, specifying particularly the amount of tax voted by said meetings, and deliver the same, certified under their hands and seals, within ten days after such meeting, to the commissioners of primary schools, or any one of them, to be delivered by them or him to the clerk of the commissioners, and by him to be recorded in a book kept for that purpose.

Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That all tax to be voted by the citizens of any and every school district in said county, under the provisions of this act, shall be levied on all the assessable property in said district owned by white persons, agreeably to the assessments of the last preceding county tax.

Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Levy Court of the county aforesaid, at their first meeting after the passage of this act, and in each succeeding year thereafter, when the annual county levy is made, to impose and levy a school tax of seventeen cents on the one per cent. on all the assessable property of said county, without the limits of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, owned by white persons, for the support of primary schools hereby authorized in said county, which tax shall be due at the same time, and shall be collected by the county collector in the same manner and under the same regulations and restrictions as are prescribed by law in relation to the collection of other county taxes; and which are hereby made applicable to the collection of the school tax imposed by this act, and when collected shall be paid to the treasurer of the Levy Court, who is hereby constituted and appointed treasurer of the primary school fund for said county, and who shall qualify by making oath or affirmation that he will well and faithfully discharge the duties required of him by law as treasurer of the school fund for said county, and not use the same to his own use or advantage, and he shall also give bond to the United States, with two good and sufficient sureties, conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties required of him by this act, which bond, being approved by the commissioners of primary schools aforesaid, shall be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, who is hereby required to file the same without fee or reward, and a copy of the said bond, under seal of said court, shall be sufficient evidence of the making thereof.

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the trustees of each school district, whenever a district meeting shall have voted a sufficient tax for that purpose, to purchase a suitable site for their school-house, and to build, keep in repair, and furnish such school-house with necessary fuel, books, stationery, and appendages; and it shall be the further duty of the trustees aforesaid to agree with and employ all teachers to be employ ed in such district: *Provided*, That no teachers shall be employed by them who shall not have received the certificate of approbation from the commissioners of primary schools aforesaid, as hereinbefore provided; and it shall be the further duty of the trustees to pay the salaries of teachers out of the apportionment of the school fund for their respective districts which shall come into their hands through the commissioners aforesaid, so far as the same shall be sufficient for that purpose.

Sec. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That before the trustees of any school district shall enter upon the duties of their office, they shall each take an oath or make affirmation before a justice of the peace of said county, or one of the commissioners of primary schools, who is hereby authorized to administer the same, that he will well and trully discharge the duties pertaining to his said office of trustee, without prejudice or partiality, and according to law; and it shall be the duty of the said trustees of each of said school districts, or a majority of them, to furnish, at the expiration of their term of service, to the commissioners aforesaid, a correct statement of all money transactions done by them in virtue of their office as trustees of said primary school district.

Sec. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the commissioners of primary schools aforesaid to apportion the moneys which shall come into the hands of the treasurer of the school fund aforesaid, under and by virtue of the provisions of this act, after paying the salaries of the clerk of the commissioners and the treasurer of the school fund, for the use of primary schools aforesaid, as soon as may be after such moneys shall be received by the said treasurer, equally among the several school districts in said county which shall have complied with the provisions of this act; and all moneys so to be apportioned by the commissioners aforesaid shall be caused to be paid by them, according to such apportionment, to the trustees of the district to which such moneys shall be apportioned as aforesaid, whose receipts therefor shall be good and sufficient evidence of such payment, which moneys, so to be received by the trustees, as aforesaid, shall be applied each expended by them, after the apportionment for the first year, in paying the salaries of the teachers to be employed by them, and for no other purpose: *Provided*, That no moneys apportioned, as aforesaid, except the apportionment made for the first year, shall be paid by the commissioners aforesaid, until the white taxable inhabitants, and the trustees of the district to which such moneys shall be apportioned, as aforesaid, shall have substantially complied with the provisions of this act: *And provided further*, That it shall not be lawful for the commissioners aforesaid to draw any moneys from the hands of the treasurer of the school fund aforesaid, after paying the salaries of the clerk of the commissioners and the treasurer of the school fund aforesaid, except by draft, in favor of the trustees of the school district to which such moneys shall be apportioned as aforesaid; and all moneys which shall be apportioned by the commissioners as aforesaid, and which shall remain unpaid for the space of two years thereafter, either from the omission or neglect of the trustees of the primary school district entitled to receive the same, to apply therefor and to make the necessary certificates to entitle them to the same, or from any defect in such certificates, said moneys shall, after the expiration of said term, be added to the moneys next thereafter to be apportioned by the said commissioners, and shall be apportioned and paid together with such moneys as aforesaid.

Sec. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That the trustees of each school district shall hold their office till their successors shall be elected and qualified, and in case of vacancy shall be filled by the remaining trustees within one month; and in case the said trustees shall fail to fill such vacancy within that time, then it shall be the duty of the commissioners of primary schools as soon as may be thereafter.

Sec. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That if any trustee of any primary school district shall make a false certificate or report, by means whereof any moneys shall be fraudulently obtained from the commissioners aforesaid, such trustee signing such certificate or report shall forfeit and pay double the amount so fraudulently obtained to the commissioners of primary schools, to be recovered, with costs of suit, by action of debt before any court of justice, or any justice of the peace having cognizance thereof, in the name of the said commissioners; and such sum, exclusive of the cost of suit, shall be applied, when recovered, to the use of the primary school in such district.

Sec. 19. *And be it further enacted*, That the said trustees shall keep an account of their proceedings in a book kept for that purpose, and shall also keep an account against the district collector for the sums authorized to be collected, and for other sums paid into his hands, and shall give him credit for the sums legally paid by him, also for his legal commissions, and for such sums as cannot be collected by legal steps and proper diligence; and that said collector shall have the keeping of all moneys collected by him, and other sums paid into his hands, subject to the written order of a majority of the trustees, drawn in favor of such persons having claims against said school district, and he shall report to the trustees whenever required the amount of funds in his hands and a full statement of his accounts.

Sec. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That the trustees of any primary school district in said county shall be and they are hereby authorized, in their discretion, to require from any child attending school the payment of any sum of money not exceeding one dollar a month, to be applied to the payment of the expenses of said district school; and in the exercise of this power the trustees aforesaid may, from time to time, discontinue the payment thereof altogether, or may graduate its payments according to the ability of the children and the exigencies of the school.

Sec. 21. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the trustees of each school district, whenever a district meeting shall have voted a district tax, as soon as may be, to make a rate bill or tax list, which shall raise the sum voted for, in due proportion on all the taxable property in such district, agreeably to the assessment of the last preceding county tax, and to annex to such tax list or rate bill, warrant, and to deliver the same to the collector of such district, which warrant shall be substantially as follows:

"COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, D. C., *ss.*

To ——, collector of the —— district in the county aforesaid, greeting: You are hereby required and commanded to collect from each of the inhabitants of said district the several sums of money written opposite to the name of each of said inhabitants in the annexed tax list, and within sixty days after receiving this warrant to pay the amount of the moneys by you collected to the order of the trustees of said district or a majority of them; and if any one or more of said inhabitants shall neglect or refuse to pay the same, you are hereby further commanded to levy on the goods and chattels of each delinquent, and make sale thereof according to law. Given under our hands and seals this —— day [of] ——, A. D. ——.

P.,
Q.,
R.,
Trustees."

And if the sum or sums payable by any person named in such tax list or rate bill shall not be paid by him or collected by virtue of said warrant within the time therein limited, it shall be lawful for the trustees aforesaid to renew such warrant in respect to such delinquent person or persons.

Sec. 22. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the trustees of each district to make a report to the commissioners of primary schools on or before the thirty-first day of December in each year, in which report shall be stated the sums received from different sources, the amount expended, and in what manner, the number of children taught in said school, and the whole number of white children in said district between the ages of five and sixteen years.

Sec. 23. *And be it further enacted*, That the collector of each school district shall give bond with security, to the satisfaction of the trustees, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office, and shall have the same power and authority, and be subject to the same rules, regulations, and duties, with respect to the collection of the district tax as by law appertain to the office of collector of the county tax; and the said county collector may be eligible as the school district collector.

Sec. 24. *And be it further enacted*, That each organized school district shall be a corporation by the name of "Primary School District, No. ——" (the blank to be filled with an appropriate number,) with power to take and hold by devise, bequest, and donation, real and personal estate for the use of the primary school in said district, and may alien and sell the same, when, in the opinion of the trustees and resident commissioner of said district, it will be for the interest and advantage of the primary school in said district, and invest the money arising from the sale in some safe and profitable stock, and the dividends received from the same apply to the use of such primary school, and in their corporate name prosecute and maintain actions for injury done to the grounds, houses, appurtenances and furniture, and may sue for and receive all moneys due them, or for real and personal property to which they may be entitled.

Sec. 25. *And be it further enacted*, That when any land in any school district in said county may become charged for the payment of any school tax, and the collector of the tax can find no personal property in said district liable for or chargeable with the payment of the same, the said collector shall be and is hereby directed and required to return to the trustees of the said district, at such time or times as the said trustees shall direct or require, a list of such lands and the amount of taxes thereon, respectively due, and the names of persons respectively chargeable with the payment of the same, and the said trustees shall thereupon have and exercise, in relation to said lands, all the powers which might or could be exercised by the levy court of said county in like cases, and the collector of said school district shall have the same powers and authority, and be subject to the same rules, regulations, and duties, in the premises as by law appertain to the office of the collector of county taxes in like cases.

Sec. 26. *And be it further enacted*, That in case the trustees of any school district should not be able to purchase or lease a suitable site for the erection of their school house, they shall have power to value and assess a convenient lot, with the improvements thereon, if any, not exceeding one acre of land for that purpose, and the decision of the said trustees as to the worth of the said land and improvements, if any, shall be final and conclusive, unless an appeal shall be prosecuted as hereinafter provided, and the amount of damage for the land and improvements, if any, so valued and assessed as aforesaid, being paid or offered to be paid to the person or persons entitled to receive the same, of which payment or offer to pay a certificate, signed by a majority of the said trustees, and recorded among the land records of Washington county, or a copy of such record duly certified and sealed shall be sufficient evidence; the said trustees, in their corporate character, shall be thenceforward considered the lawful owners of the said land and improvements, if any, and all right, title, estate, and interest therein, at law or in equity, shall be vested in them for the purpose aforesaid: *Provided, however*, That if the owner or owners of the said land and improvements, if any his, her, or their guardian or guardians, trustee or trustees, shall conceive him, her, or themselves aggrieved by such valuation and assessment, and shall, within thirty days after the payment of the valuation so offered as aforesaid, notify to the said trustees the same in writing, it shall and may be lawful and it shall be the duty of the said trustees, or a majority of them, to issue their warrant to the marshal of the District of Columbia, commanding him to summon a jury of six freeholders of the school district, not interested in the matter, to appear on a day by the said trustees to be appointed, on the premises, and any one of the said trustees, or any justice of the peace of the said county, is authorized to administer an oath or affirmation, as the case may be, to each and every person so summoned as aforesaid, that he will, without favor, affection, partiality, or prejudice, assess the damages sustained by the person or persons at whose request the said inquisition shall be taken, by reason of his, her, or their land and improvements, if any, about to be made as aforesaid, and the persons so summoned and qualified as aforesaid shall thereupon proceed to value and assess the damages accordingly: *Provided*, That if such appeal from the assessment and valuation of the said trustees be confirmed by the jury herein directed to be summoned and qualified as aforesaid, or should the same be reduced to a lower rate of valuation and assessment by the said jury, the party appealing in that case shall pay the whole expense incurred thereby, otherwise the trustees, in their corporate character as such shall pay the expenses incurred by reason of such appeal.

Sec. 27. *And be it further enacted*, That the said trustees or the said jury, as the case may be, immediately after they shall have completed their valuation and assessment or inquisition, as aforesaid, and done all things required of them, or either of them, as the case may be, under the provisions of this act, shall make out a fair statement of their proceedings, setting forth in the same a full and distinct description of the land or real estate and improvements, if any thereon, as valued by them or either of them, as the case may be, and all matters and things connected with the said valuation and assessment and the performance of the duties required of them by this act, and to the said copy, fairly to be written out as aforesaid, they shall subscribe their names and thereunto affix their seals, and they shall deposit the same in the office of the clerk of the circuit court of the District of Columbia, and it shall be the duty of the said clerk to preserve a record of the said proceedings without fee or reward; and a copy of such record, certified by the said clerk under the seal of the said court, shall be evidence of all matters therein stated, in the same manner as certified copies of other records are evidence.

Sec. 28. *And be it further endeted*, That in the event of an appeal and the inquisition of a jury, as provided by this act, the amount of damages for the land or real estate and improvements so valued and assessed as aforesaid, being paid or offered to be paid to the aforesaid, the said trustees, in their corporate character as aforesaid, shall thenceforward forever thereafter be considered the lawful owner of the said land and improvements as aforesaid, and all right, title, interest, and estate therein, at law or in equity, shall be vested in the said trustees for the purpose aforesaid: *Provided*, That it shall not be lawful to locate the said site in the orchard or garden, nor within three hundred yards of any dwelling of any person or persons whatever, without the assent of the proprietor of such orchard, garden, or dwelling, as the case may be.

Sec. 29. *And be it further enacted*, That if any treasurer or collector, having any school funds in his hands, or neglecting or refusing to obtain such funds as by law authorized and directed, shall refuse to pay for two weeks any order of the said commissioners or trustees, or a majority of either, drawn in conformity to the requisitions of this act, such treasurer or collector shall be liable, on proof thereof before any court of justice or justice of the peace having cognizance, and without stay of execution, to pay the full amount of said order and interest thereon, at the rate of twenty per centum per annum, from the first refusal until the day of payment, by way of damages.

Sec. 30. *And be it further enacted*, That if any collector, appointed or acting under the provisions of this act, shall in any case collect more than is due, the person aggrieved shall have his remedy against such collector by suit or warrant, and if he recover he shall have judgment for double the amount improperly and unjustly extorted from him, and costs.

Sec. 31. *And be it further enacted*, That the Levy Court of Washington county shall exercise a general supervision over the proceedings of said commissioners, may examine their books and papers, and shall prosecute for any delinquencies or violations of their duty; and the said commissioners shall exercise the same power over the proceedings, books, and papers of the trustees in the several school districts, and shall prosecute for all violations of this act by them committed.

Sec. 32. *And be it further enacted*, That the trustees of the several school districts shall have the power of exercising discipline in their several schools by the expulsion of the refractory pupil, or such other punishment as may be necessary to correct the evil, and carry out the great ends of education, moral and intellectual; and they may permit any of the said school houses to be used for public worship.

Sec. 33. *And be it further enacted*, That any white resident of said county shall be privileged to place his or her child or ward at any one of the schools in said county she or he may think proper to select.

Sec. 34. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall not be lawful for a member of the levy court of said county to be a commissioner of primary schools or trustee of any of the school districts, nor for any person to be at the same time commissioner and trustee as aforesaid.

Sec. 35. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Levy Court may, in its discretion, and if it shall be deemed by said court best for the interest and welfare of the colored people residing in said county, levy an annual tax of one-eighth of one per cent. on all the taxable property in said county outside the limits of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, owned by persons of color, for the purpose of initiating a system of education of colored children in said county, which tax shall be collected in the same manner as the tax named in section thirteen of this act. And it shall be the duty of the trustees elected under existing laws for holding schools for colored children, to employ teachers therefor, and to appropriate the proceeds of said tax to the payment of teachers' wages, rent of school-rooms, fuel, and other necessary expenses pertaining to said schools, to exercise a general supervision over them, to establish proper discipline, and to endeavor to promote a full, equal, and useful instruction of the colored children in said county. It shall be lawful for such trustees to impose a tax of not more than fifty cents per month on the parent or guardian of each child attending such schools, to be applied to the payment of the expenses of the school of which said child shall be an attendant, and in the exercise of this power the trustees may, from time to time, discontinue the payment altogether, or may graduate the tax according to the ability of the child and the wants of the school. And said trustees are authorized to receive any donations or contributions that may be made for the benefit of said schools by persons disposed to aid in the elevation of the colored population in the District of Columbia, and to apply the same in such manner as in their opinion shall be best calculated to effect the object of the donors, said trustees being required to account for all funds received by them, and to report to the commissioners, in accordance with the provisions of section twenty-two of this act.

Sec. 36. *And be it further enacted*, That this act be and the same is hereby declared public and remedial, and shall be construed by all courts of justice according to the equity thereof; and no proceedings of the inhabitants or of the trustees of any school district, or of the commissioners of primary schools, or of any other officer created under the provisions of this act, shall be set aside or adjudged to be void for defect of form or for any irregularity therein so as the requisitions of the said act are substantially complied with.

Approved, May 20, 1862.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

COMMITTEE OF ARBITRATION OF BOARD OF TRADE FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

WM. MCCREERY, V. P., } J. J. GILLESPIE,
J. I. BENNETT, } JAMES PARKE, JR.,
B. PRESTON.

PITTSBURGH MARKETS.

[Reported specially for the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

SATURDAY, June 7th, 1862.

FLOUR—quiet and unchanged; sale of 150 bbls Family at $4,90 and $5,10 and 4,00 bbls superfine on private terms.

GROCERIES—Molasses firm with small sales at 50; sugar quiet at from 8¼ to 9¾ and coffee 21@22.

BACON—dull, without however, any change in rates. Sale of 2 hhds sugar cured hams, at 7¼, and 125 pieces common country sides, at 7.

POTATOES—Sale of 40 bush reds at 40c, and 150 bush Prince Alberts, at 55.

CRUDE OIL—steady, with a sale of 300 bbls, 44 gravity, at 4¾ per gal—cash.

FEED—Sale of 1 ton of rye shorts at 60 per cwt.

RYE FLOUR—sale of 10 bbls choice from store at $3,10 per bbl.

DRIED FRUIT—Sale of 50 bush prime apples at $1,50. Peaches unchanged and but few in market.

COOPERAGE—Sale of 2,000 hoop poles, at $7 per M. for slacks and $10 for tights.

CHEESE—Sale in lots of 65 boxes W. R. at 7 to 7¾ and 8 per pound, according to quality.

Imports by River.

WHEELING—steamNEPTUNE—1 bales rags, 12 kgs butter, 2 bbls eggs, 2 bxs 1 bag b b goods, Clarke & co; 36 sks potatoes, Grierson & Clarke: 36 bbls oil, Ardseo Oil co; 2 bbls eggs; J C McVay; 1800 hoop poles; 1 bbl eggs, J A Fetter; 1 cask bacon, J S; 20 bbls worth & co; 10 bbls flour, J S Liggett & co; 10 bbls copperas, R E Sellers & co; 1 box mdse, Jos Horne; 40 oil bbls, J M Fisher; 61 bdls bldes, J R McClure; 15 bxs tobacco, Jno Grier: 75 bdls paper, Pitts Ft Wayne & Chicago R R; 13 do do E H Godfry; 100 sks corn, A J Hagan; 117 do do potatoes, J McAlpin; 20 sks oats, Coltrin & Mason; 6 horses, Owner. . . .

Imports by Railroad.

CINCINNATI—per PENN ARYA—2 bales rags, 12 kgs butter, 2 bbls eggs, 2 bxs 1 bag b b goods, Clarke & co; 36 sks potatoes, Grierson & Clarke: 36 bbls oil, Ardseo Oil co; 2 bbls eggs; J C McVay; 1800 hoop poles; 1 bbl eggs, J A Fetter; 1 cask bacon, J S; 20 bbls worth & co; 10 bbls flour, J S Liggett & co; 10 bbls copperas, R E Sellers & co; 1 box mdse, Jos Horne; 40 oil bbls, J M Fisher; 61 bdls bldes, J R McClure; 15 bxs tobacco, Jno Grier: 75 bdls paper, Pitts Ft Wayne & Chicago R R; 13 do do E H Godfry; 100 sks corn, A J Hagan; 117 do do potatoes, J McAlpin; 20 sks oats, Coltrin & Mason; 6 horses, Owner. . . .

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Imports by Railroad.

PITTSBURGH, Ft. WAYNE & CHICAGO RAILROAD, June 7—60 bxs hams, 21 bbls bacon, J P Hamm & co; 33 bdls paper, H C Howard; 100 bbls flour, J S Liggett & co; 1 bbl 9 bxs tobacco, R Maxwire; 1 box mdse, Little & Trimble; 24 bbls carbon oil, Waite Bros & co; 33 carboys, J Irvin; 12 do do B A Fahnestock & co; 5 bbls carbon oil, L Thun & co; 7 bbls oil, W H Kirkpatrick & co; 1 car lumber, Jas Millinger; 56 block stone, John McCargo; 12 doz buckets and tubs, Iels & Berger; 24 do do, S Kroesen.

CLEVELAND & PITTSBURGH RAILROAD, June 6—22 half bbls fish, E Hazeldon; 18 do do, Benj Tuppers; 190 bxs candles, Means & Coffin; 370 plates copper, Parke, McDurdy & co; 2594 bars iron, Hussey, Wells & co; 1 car pig metal, Nimick & co; 28 bxs cheese, Frank Vangorder; 21 sks potatoes, R Dalzell & co; 26 sks rags, H McCullough; 32 bbls crude oil, Faber & Scott; 31 do do T Dickson; 2 do do, J H Marshall; 2 bxs bacon; Little & Trimble.

River News.

The river continues to recede steadily at this point with eight feet four inches by the marks last evening. The weather remains clear and pleasant; and very favorable for business, which was quite brisk at the wharf on Saturday.....The arrivals include the Empire City, from St. Louis, Cricket, from Cincinnati, and S. C. Baker, from Steubenville. The latter boat came up on a kind of pleasure excursion, though she had two barges containing twenty-five hundred bush corn, and about seven hundred of wheat. She must have had upwards of one hundred and fifty excursionists, all citizens of Steubenville. After taking on a large quantity of salt, she left again yesterday afternoon.....The Hastings, from Louisville, Argonaut, from St. Louis and Emma Graham, from Zanesville, are due here this morning. .....The Citizen and Westmoreland, for St. Louis, cleared on Saturday evening, with fair trips. The Citizen had upwards of 325 tons of railroad iron, and some fifty or sixty discharged and furloughed soldiers. The Westmoreland, had a good cargo beside a fair number of passengers.....The Allegheny river is again in navigable condition, and the packets have resumed their regular trips. The Venango, went up Saturday evening.....Capt. Wm Gosney, formerly of the ill-fated W. L. Mackey, went out as bar keeper on the Westmoreland.

CINCINNATI—The Commercial, of Saturday says:

Captain John A. Williamson has purchased the steamer Iowa, and will immediately place her in the Tennessee river trade. She will leave on Wednesday next positively.....We learn from the New Albany Ledger, that Capt. Dexter Throop, and Gus Busseuliere have purchased the wreck of the Economy, as she now lies in the Cumberland river. She will be raised, repaired, and placed in the Evansville and Cairo trade.

The Gazette, of same date says:

Business on the wharf was more active; freight offering more freely to Pittsburgh, in consequence of the decline in the rates of freight, reducing the charges nearly to the regular card rates. The shipments of Government freight, however, which is conducted under the general supervision of Mr. W. B. Copes, still continues to form a large portion of the business of the levee. The embargo laid by the Custom House officials, by Government orders, on a large variety of articles of general export to Nashville has considerably injured that trade.

The Memphis ran which left Pittsburgher hung out on Thursday, is still conspicuous on his boat, and we understand it is the intention of the Captain to make that his next trip without fail.

ST. LOUIS—The Democrat, of Thursday, says:

The news from the United States river fleet is important to river men and the country. We refer to the fleet above, or lately above Fort Pillow. There appears to be reason for supposing the river is open, or at this point of help opened to Memphis and in consequence, to New Orleans. There will in that event be a sudden demand for an immense amount of tonnage from this port. We anticipate that an early day steamers almost innumerable will be taking their departure from this port for Memphis and New Orleans, and not only for those ports and intermediate points but for the Arkansas, White, Red, and Ouachita rivers. Supplies for our troops must be sent up these streams, and expeditions for cotton and "Confederate" property will be forwarded.

The Prima Donna, is in from Pittsburgh, with a heavy load. She loads again with quick dispatch.

Very many of our prodigal river men, under the malign influence, perhaps of mistaken patriotism, had gone down into the depths of secession, appear to have discovered the folly they were guilty of, and have returned to St. Louis, and their allegiance. Of course they will partake largely of the fatted calf. Others, who now sails benignly under the same flag of the Americans, and feel themselves free in the latitude we may mention Capt. Geo. Cable, formerly commander of the John Walsh; Capt. Denning, who built and ran the Clara Dolsen; Mr. Austin H. Moore, formerly clerk of the Crescent City; &c.; Jno. Evans, engineer; David Hill, engineer; Wm. Sterritt, engineer; Jas. Reed, New Orleans pilot; Frank Udell, pilot of the Imperial; Henry Collins, engineer. The latter returned in February, and is now engineer on the J. C. Swon. We understand that Capt. John Carroll, commander of the Swon, is a prodigal also, having returned from rebeldom a few weeks since. To this list we will add Mr. Green Erskine, a citizen of Mt. Louis.

FOR CINCINNATI AND LOUISVILLE—The Chris Dean, Capt. Dickerson, is announced to leave as above this evening. The Glide, Capt. Anderson, is advertised to leave to-morrow.

FOR ST. LOUIS AND THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER—The Florence, Capt. Brickell and Alice Ogle, Capt. Tuttle, both first class steamers are loading and will leave forthwith.

ZANESVILLE—The punctual Emma Graham, Capt. Ayers, leaves as usual to-morrow evening, for Zanesville.

STEAMBOATS.

FOR CINCINNATI & ST. LOUIS.—The fine steamer GLIDE, Capt. Wm. B. Anderson, will leave as above on TUESDAY, 10th inst., at 4 p. m. For freight or passage apply on board or to

J. B. LIVINGSTON & CO.,
JOHN FLACK, } Agents.

FOR CINCINNATI & LOUISVILLE.—The splendid steamer CLARA DEAN, Capt. G. W. Dickerson, will leave as above on THIS DAY, 9th inst., at 10 a. m. For freight or passage apply on board. je6

ALLEGHENY RIVER PACKETS.

The RETURN No. 3, Capt. Mathew Conner, will receive freight for Oil City THIS DAY.

je4 R. J. COYLE, Agent.

FOR ST. LOUIS KEOKUK, AND ST. PAUL.—The fine steamer ARAGO, Capt. Golding, will leave for the above and intermediate ports on TUESDAY, 10th inst., at 4 p. m. For freight or passage apply on board or to

J. B. LIVINGSTON & CO.,
JOHN FLACK, } Agents.

FOR CAIRO, ST. LOUIS AND ST. PAUL.—The fine steamer EX-CHANGE, Capt. J. W. Auswalt, will leave as above on WEDNESDAY, 11th inst., at 4 o'clock p. m. For freight or passage apply on board or to

je6 JOHN FLACK, Agent.

FOR ST. LOUIS AND ST. PAUL.—The fine steamer FLORENCE, Capt. D. Z. Brickell, will leave as above on MONDAY, 9th inst., at 4 p. m. For freight or passage apply on board or to

J. B. LIVINGSTON & CO.,
WM HASLITT, } Agents.
JOHN FLACK, }

REGULAR WEEKLY ZANESVILLE PACKET.—The new and beautiful passenger steamer EMMA GRAHAM, Capt. Monroe Ayers, leaves Pittsburgh for Zanesville EVERY TUESDAY, at 4 o'clock p. m.—Returning, leaves Zanesville EVERY FRIDAY, at a. m. For freight or passage apply on board or to J. B. LIVINGSTON & CO., Agents, Pittsburgh.

E. S. PINKUS & CO., Agents, Zanesville. se14

REGULAR WHEELING PACKET.—The splendid passenger steamer MINERVA, Capt. John Gordon, leaves for Wheeling and all intermediate ports EVERY TUESDAY, THURSDAY and SATURDAY, at 11 o'clock a. m., making close connections with the regular packets for Parkersburgh and Cincinnati. Returning, leaves Wheeling EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY, at 3 o'clock a. m. Passengers receipted through to Cincinnati. For freight or passage apply on board or to JAS. COLLINS & CO., ap21 114 Water street.

WHEELING PACKET.—The steamer LIZZIE MARTIN, Capt. D. T. Brown, leaves for WHEELING, and all intermediate points, every MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY, at 12 o'clock m., making close connections with the Parkersburg packets. Returning, leaves WHEELING every TUESDAY, THURSDAY and SATURDAY, at 8 o'clock a. m. For freight or passage apply on board or to

JAMES COLLINS & CO., Agents,
ap27 No. 115 Water street.

FOR SALE.

DESIRABLE PROPERTY FOR SALE.—Two two-story brick dwellings, supplied with water and gas; lots each 30 by 150 feet, situated on South avenue, Allegheny city.

A building partly finished, with large stone