

War: *And provided further*, That if the owners of such lands or sites shall refuse to sell the same at reasonable prices, then the prices to be paid shall be determined and the title and jurisdiction procured in the manner prescribed by the laws of the State in which such lands or sites are situated.

Condemnation.

Approved, June 10, 1879.

**CHAP. 16.**—An act to confer upon the Commissioners of the District of Columbia certain powers, duties, and limitations contained in chapter eight (Water Service) of the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

June 10, 1879.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall have all the powers and be subject to all the duties and limitations provided in chapter eight of the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to the District of Columbia, excepting such powers and duties as belong to the Chief of Engineers: *Provided*, That water-main taxes and water rents shall be uniform in said District: *And provided further*, That the rate of interest specified in section two hundred and two of said Revised Statutes shall be increased to ten per centum per annum from and after the passage of this act.

District of Columbia.  
R.S.D.C., chap. 8.  
Water service.  
Uniform water rates.  
Interest.

**SEC. 2.** That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he hereby is, directed to advance to said Commissioners the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, to be reimbursed by payment into the Treasury of the United States, until said sum is paid in full, of all collections of water main taxes now due said District; and the money so advanced shall be expended to improve the water supply on Capitol Hill.

Advances for improvements.

Approved, June 10, 1879.

**CHAP. 17.**—An act authorizing the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to issue twenty year five per cent bonds of the District of Columbia to redeem certain funded indebtedness of said District.

June 10, 1879.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia be, and they are hereby, authorized to prepare, execute, and deposit with the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States bonds of the District of Columbia, bearing interest not exceeding five per centum per annum, and payable twenty years after date, to the amount of not more than one million two hundred thousand dollars, the proceeds to be used only for the redemption of funded indebtedness of said District or of the late municipal corporations of Washington and Georgetown which became due January first and March first, eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, or those now existing and payable at pleasure, for the redemption of which the sinking fund of said District may not provide. Said five per centum bonds shall be in such form and denominations as the Secretary of the Treasury shall approve, and shall be numbered consecutively and registered in the office of the auditor of said District, and also in the office of the Register of the Treasury of the United States, in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury may direct, and shall bear the seal of the District of Columbia: *Provided*, That this act shall not be construed to make the government of the United States liable for either the principal or interest of said bonds, or any part thereof.

District of Columbia.  
Issue of bonds.

Form, etc.

Proviso.

Said bonds shall be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury to the highest bidder upon public tender, but for not less than their par value, after being advertised for one week in two daily newspapers in the city of Washington and two in the city of New York. The bids shall be opened by the Secretary of the Treasury and the awards approved by him. The

Sale of bonds and disposition of proceeds.