

from the ordinary revenue, for the support of the state colony for the insane, for the year ending on the thirty-first day of December, nineteen hundred and five, to wit: —

For salaries and wages, a sum not exceeding eighteen thousand dollars. State colony for insane, salaries, etc. Expenses.

For other current expenses, including printing and binding the annual report, a sum not exceeding thirty-three thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

*Approved March 9, 1905.*

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE NANTUCKET GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY TO SELL AND TRANSFER ITS FRANCHISES. Chap.148

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

SECTION 1. The receiver of the Nantucket Gas and Electric Company, whenever empowered or permitted so to do by an order or decree of the court by which he was appointed, is hereby authorized to sell and transfer the franchises of said company to any gas and electric company now or hereafter organized under the laws of Massachusetts, subject to any outstanding mortgage lawfully made of said franchises by said company. The purchaser shall hold and enjoy said franchises and all rights in connection therewith, in the same manner as the same have heretofore been held and enjoyed by the Nantucket Gas and Electric Company. The Nantucket Gas and Electric Company may transfer its franchises, etc.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

*Approved March 9, 1905.*

AN ACT RELATIVE TO CLERICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS. Chap.149

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section fourteen of chapter six of the Revised Laws, as amended by chapter one hundred and seventy-seven of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and two, and by chapter one hundred and twenty of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and three, is hereby further amended by striking out the whole section and inserting in place thereof the following:—*Section 14.* He shall receive an annual salary of thirty-five hundred dollars. He may employ in his office one clerk at a salary R. L. 6, § 14, etc., amended.

Auditor of accounts, salaries, etc.

of twenty-five hundred dollars a year, one clerk at a salary of twenty-two hundred dollars a year, four clerks at a salary of fifteen hundred dollars a year each, and a messenger at a salary of not more than nine hundred dollars a year. He may also employ such additional clerical assistance as may be necessary, at an expense not exceeding forty-five hundred dollars a year. If, by reason of sickness, absence or other cause, the auditor is temporarily unable to perform the duties of his office, the first clerk in his office shall act as his deputy and perform the duties of the auditor until such disability ceases.

First clerk to act as deputy in certain cases.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

*Approved March 9, 1905.*

*Chap. 150* AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE RANK AND COMPENSATION OF VETERANS EMPLOYED IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

R. L. 19, § 23, amended.

SECTION 1. Section twenty-three of chapter nineteen of the Revised Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the word "abolished", in the fifth line, the words:— nor shall he be lowered in rank or compensation, — by inserting after the word "transfer", in the seventh line, the words:— lowering in rank or compensation, — and by inserting after the word "transfer", in the twelfth line, the words:— lowering in rank or compensation, — so as to read as follows:— *Section 23.* No veteran who holds an office or employment in the public service of the Commonwealth, or of any city or town therein, shall be removed or suspended, or shall, without his consent, be transferred from such office or employment, nor shall his office be abolished, nor shall he be lowered in rank or compensation, except after a full hearing of which he shall have at least seventy-two hours' written notice, with a statement of the reasons for the contemplated removal, suspension, transfer, lowering in rank or compensation, or abolition. The hearing shall be before the state board of conciliation and arbitration, if the veteran is a state employee, or before the mayor of the city or selectmen of the town of which he is an employee, and the veteran shall have the right to be present and to be represented by counsel. Such removal, suspension or transfer, lowering in rank or compensation, or such abolition of an office, shall be made only upon a written order stating fully and spe-

Veterans not to be removed, etc., without a hearing, etc.