

infant nor notifies the overseers of the city or town in which he resides of his or her inability to support such infant shall be punished by imprisonment, if a man, in the house of correction, or, if a woman, in the reformatory prison for women, for not more than two years; or, if the infant dies by reason of such abandonment, for not more than five years. Whoever knowingly and with wrongful intent aids or abets in abandoning such infant shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not more than two years.

Approved April 6, 1905.

AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR CERTAIN EXPENSES OF THE UNITED STATES STEAMER INCA INCURRED IN THE YEAR NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FOUR. Chap.270

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The sum of seven hundred seventy-one dollars and sixty cents is hereby appropriated, to be paid out of the treasury of the Commonwealth from the ordinary revenue, for certain expenses incurred in the year nineteen hundred and four on account of the United States steamer Inca. Expenses of U. S. steamer Inca.

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

Approved April 6, 1905.

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ADVANCING OF CERTAIN CAUSES FOR SPEEDY TRIAL. Chap.271

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section fifty-five of chapter one hundred and seventy-three of the Revised Laws is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the words: — If, in an action appealed by the defendant from a police, district or municipal court or trial justice, the court is satisfied, upon an inspection of the declaration, that the plaintiff seeks to recover solely for his personal labor, with or without interest, the court may, upon motion, advance such action for speedy trial, — so as to read as follows: — *Section 55.* If, in an action in which the plaintiff seeks merely to recover a debt or a liquidated demand, with or without interest, the defendant has appeared, the plaintiff may, within twenty days after the expiration of the time allowed to the de-

R. L. 173, § 55, amended.

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defendant for filing an answer, file an affidavit verifying the cause of action and stating that in his belief there is no defence thereto, and thereupon the clerk shall issue an order requiring the defendant to show cause why judgment should not be given for the plaintiff. The plaintiff shall immediately give notice in writing to the defendant of such order, and unless the defendant, within seven days after such notice, or within such further time as the court may allow, consents to a default and to judgment for the amount demanded, or unless he discloses, by affidavit or in such other manner as the court may order, such facts as the court finds entitle him to defend, the court shall advance such action for speedy trial; but if, upon a hearing under such order and notice, the court does not so advance the action, it may in its discretion award the defendant reasonable costs. The court shall require the defendant to disclose specifically and clearly the substantive facts upon which he relies. If, in an action appealed by the defendant from a police, district or municipal court or trial justice, the court is satisfied, upon an inspection of the declaration, that the plaintiff seeks to recover solely for his personal labor, with or without interest, the court may, upon motion, advance such action for speedy trial.

Approved April 6, 1905.

Chap. 272 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY OF THE ASSISTANT BOOKKEEPER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURER AND RECEIVER GENERAL.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Salary of assistant book-keeper in department of treasurer established.

SECTION 1. From and after the first day of January in the year nineteen hundred and five the assistant book-keeper in the department of the treasurer and receiver general shall receive a salary of fifteen hundred dollars a year.

Repeal.

SECTION 2. So much of section four of chapter six of the Revised Laws as is inconsistent herewith is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 6, 1905.