

AN ACT TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE EAST STOUGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH.

Chap.197

Be it enacted, etc., as follows :

SECTION 1. The religious society in Avon incorporated under the general laws of the Commonwealth and called the East Stoughton Baptist Church shall be known and called hereafter by the name of the Avon Baptist Church and as such and under such name shall hold and possess all the real estate and personal property and shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges and be subject to all the liabilities of the society incorporated and called as aforesaid.

Name changed.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.
Approved April 9, 1888.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE PLANTING OF CLAMS IN AND AROUND THE SHORES OF ESSEX.

Chap.198

Be it enacted, etc., as follows :

SECTION 1. The selectmen of the town of Essex may by writing under their hands grant a license for such a term of years, not exceeding five, as they in their discretion may deem necessary and the public good requires, to any inhabitant of said town, to plant, cultivate and dig clams upon and in any flats and creeks in said town now unproductive thereof, not exceeding two acres to any one person, and not impairing the private rights of any person.

Selectmen may grant licenses for planting, etc., clams.

SECTION 2. Such license shall describe by metes and bounds the flats and creeks so appropriated and shall be recorded by the town clerk before it shall have any force, and the person licensed shall pay to the selectmen for the use of said town two dollars and to the clerk fifty cents.

License to be recorded by town clerk.

SECTION 3. The person so licensed and his heirs and assigns shall for the purposes aforesaid have the exclusive use of the flats and creeks described in the license during the term specified therein, and may in an action of tort recover treble damages of any person, who, without his or their consent digs or takes clams from such flats or creeks during the continuance of the license.

Person licensed to have exclusive use of flats, etc., described in license.

SECTION 4. Said town of Essex at any legal meeting called for the purpose may make such by-laws, not repugnant to the laws of the Commonwealth, as they may

Town may make by-laws for protection of shell fisheries.

from time to time deem expedient to protect and preserve the shell fisheries within said town.

Penalties.

SECTION 5. Whoever takes any shell fish from within the waters of said town of Essex in violation of the by-laws established by it or of the provisions of this act shall for every offence pay a fine of not less than five nor more than ten dollars and costs of prosecution, and one dollar for every bushel of shell fish so taken.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 9, 1888.

Chap. 199

AN ACT IN RELATION TO RETURNS AND STATISTICS OF FIRES.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Cause and origin of fires to be investigated when property is destroyed. P. S. 216, § 1.

SECTION 1. Section one of chapter two hundred and sixteen of the Public Statutes is hereby amended so as to read as follows: — When property is destroyed by fire, it shall be the duty of the board of fire engineers in cities, other than the city of Boston, and in towns having a board of fire engineers, and of the board of selectmen in towns having no board of fire engineers to make investigation of the cause, circumstances and origin thereof, especially to examine whether it was the result of carelessness or design. Such investigation shall be commenced within two days of the occurrence of the fire not including the Lord's day. They shall present a written statement to the city or town clerk for careful record by him in a book provided by the insurance commissioner, of all the facts relating to the cause, kind of property, amount of value destroyed, ownership, and such other particulars as may be called for in the form provided, and any other facts which to them seem pertinent; and such record shall be made within two weeks of the occurrence of the fire. The book of record shall be kept in the office of the clerk of the city or town, and it shall be his duty to make transcript of such fire record for the year preceding, upon a blank form provided by the insurance commissioner, and forward same to the insurance department within fifteen days from the first day of January in each year. Whenever, from the investigation aforesaid, there appear reasonable grounds for believing the fire was caused by design, the chief of the board of fire engineers of the city or of the town having such board of fire engineers or the chairman of the board of selectmen of the town having no such board of fire engineers, shall apply to a police, dis-

Investigation to be commenced within two days.

Annual return to be made to the insurance commissioner.