

authority of a specific charter or organized under the general laws of this Commonwealth, but not to include mutual insurance companies having a guarantee capital; and the words "joint stock" as applied to insurance companies in the various statutes of this Commonwealth shall be construed as heretofore provided in this act.

Doings legalized and confirmed.

SECTION 2. All acts of insurance companies of this Commonwealth, whereby they have in good faith and with the approval of the insurance commissioner, acting under the supposed authority conferred by chapter two hundred and twenty-two of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and seventy-four, declared and paid dividends or increased their capital stock, they having otherwise conformed to the laws, are hereby legalized and confirmed.

*Approved March 10, 1877.*

*Chap. 37.* AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE REDEMPTION OF LANDS SOLD FOR NON-PAYMENT OF CERTAIN ASSESSMENTS.

*Be it enacted, &c., as follows:*

Redemption of lands sold for non-payment of assessments.

SECTION 1. When any real estate is sold for non-payment of an assessment thereon of a portion of the cost of any public improvement, it may be redeemed in the same manner by the same persons and on the same terms as if it had been sold for non-payment of taxes.

Sales made under existing assessments.

SECTION 2. This act shall apply to all sales hereafter made under existing assessments.

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

*Approved March 10, 1877.*

*Chap. 38.* AN ACT RELATING TO THE TERM OF OFFICE OF ENGINEMEN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

*Be it enacted, &c., as follows:*

Term of office of engineers, etc., of fire departments.

SECTION 1. Any city or town which has established, or may hereafter establish, a fire department under the provisions of chapter twenty-four of the General Statutes, or acts in addition thereto or amendment thereof, may by vote of the city council in such city, or of the inhabitants of such town, at a meeting called for the purpose, appoint the term of office for the engineers, engine-men and other members of the fire department, to begin at any future day, and to end in one year from the day so appointed, and so on from year to year.

Amendment to Gen. Stat. 24.

SECTION 2. Whenever a year is thus appointed other than the year beginning on the first day of May, which is prescribed in said chapter twenty-four, all dates or other provisions of said chapter that have reference to the month

of May, shall be so far altered as to have like reference to the first month of the year thus appointed.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of changing, in accordance with a vote passed as provided in section one, the system existing at any time, any city or town, may, by another vote which may be passed at the same time, abridge or protract the current term of office of the engineers, enginemen and other members of the fire department: *provided*, that no term shall be made shorter than six months nor longer than eighteen months; and *provided, further*, that the incumbents of such offices shall in all cases hold office until others are appointed in their stead.

Current terms of office may be abridged or protracted.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

*Approved March 10, 1877.*

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, AND OF DEAF-MUTES, AND FOR OTHER EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. *Chap. 39.*

*Be it enacted, &c., as follows:*

SECTION 1. The sums mentioned in this section are appropriated and shall be paid from the treasury of the Commonwealth, to wit:—

Appropriations.

For the Perkins institution and Massachusetts asylum for the blind, the sum of thirty thousand dollars.

Perkins institution for the blind.

For the support of Massachusetts pupils in the American asylum, and in other institutions for deaf-mutes, a sum not exceeding thirty thousand dollars.

American asylum for deaf-mutes.

SECTION 2. The income of the Rogers book fund shall be expended in accordance with the conditions named by the donor, in conformity with chapter two hundred and fifteen of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and fifty-seven.

Rogers book fund.

The income of the Todd normal school fund shall be paid to the treasurer of the board of education, to be applied by said board in accordance with chapter thirty-six of the General Statutes.

Todd normal school fund.

The income of the agricultural college fund shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of chapters one hundred and eighty-six and two hundred and twenty of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and sixty-three.

Agricultural college fund.

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

*Approved March 10, 1877.*

AN ACT IN RELATION TO THE METRIC SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES. *Chap. 40.*

*Be it enacted, &c., as follows:*

SECTION 1. That from and after the passage of this act it shall be lawful throughout the Commonwealth of Massa-

The metric system of weights and measures