

proved January twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred and fifteen, are hereby made applicable to and extended over the lands hereby added to the park.

Approved, February 14, 1917.

**CHAP. 62.**—An Act For the relief of mail contractors.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to pay the amounts due to mail contractors for mail service performed for the United States in the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas from July first, eighteen hundred and sixty, to May thirty-first, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, and in the States of Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee from July first, eighteen hundred and sixty, to June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and an appropriation of \$196,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby made, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the payment of said amounts: *Provided*, That amounts which have been paid by the United States and amounts which were paid by the Confederate States Government, or the State of Arkansas, as shown by records filed in the office of the Auditor for the Post Office Department, shall not be again paid, nor shall any claim be paid until the claimant or some one on his behalf shall by affidavit or otherwise show to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury that the amount claimed under this Act was not paid by the Confederate States Government and remains justly due from the United States.

SEC. 2. That where any contractor named in section one of this Act is deceased payment shall be made to the executor or administrator of the estate upon filing with the Auditor for the Post Office Department proper evidence of his appointment and qualification. Where, however, the amount due the estate of the decedent is \$300 or less, and no demand is presented by a duly appointed and qualified administrator of the estate, payment may be made to the decedent's widow or widower or legal heirs in the following order of precedence:

First, to the widow or widower.

Second, if there be no widow or widower, then to the children or their issue, per stirpes.

Third, if there be no widow or widower or descendants, then to the father.

Fourth, if there be no widow or widower, children or their issue, or father, then to the mother.

Fifth, if there be no widow or widower, children or their issue, father or mother, then to the brothers and sisters and children of deceased brothers and sisters, per stirpes.

Sixth, if there be no widow or widower, children or their issue, father or mother, brothers or sisters or their descendants, then to the grandparents.

Seventh, if there be no widow or widower, children or their issue, father or mother, brothers or sisters or their descendants, or grandparents, then to the uncles and aunts and their descendants in equal parts. In following the foregoing order of precedence there shall be no distinction between the whole blood and the half blood: *Provided*, That this Act shall not be so construed as to prevent payment from the amount due the decedent's estate of funeral expenses or a refundment of said expenses to the person or persons who actually paid the same when a claim therefor is presented before payment is made by

February 14, 1917.  
[H. R. 11150.]

[Public, No. 317.]

Mail contractors in Southern States. Appropriation for paying claims due for service 1860 to 1862.

*Proviso.*  
Claims excluded.

Payments to estates of decedents.

To heirs, if amount small.

Order of precedence.

*Provisos.*  
Funeral expenses.

Corporations.

Attorneys' fees restricted.

the Secretary of the Treasury: *Provided further*, That where the contractor was a corporation or quasi corporation which has since been merged in or consolidated with another corporation or quasi corporation, payment shall be made to the corporation or quasi corporation with which the consolidation or merger has been made: *Provided further*, That it shall be unlawful for any agent, attorney, firm of attorneys, or any person engaged heretofore or hereafter in preparing, presenting, or prosecuting said claim to charge or receive more than twenty per centum of the amount herein appropriated in satisfaction of the claim.

Approved, February 14, 1917.

February 14, 1917.  
[H. R. 13331.]

[Public, No. 318.]

**CHAP. 63.**—An Act To amend section forty-four hundred and sixty-four of the Revised Statutes of the United States, relating to number of passengers to be stated in certificates of inspection of passenger vessels, and section forty-four hundred and sixty-five of the Revised Statutes of the United States, prescribing penalty for carrying excessive number of passengers on passenger vessels, and section forty-four hundred and sixty-six of the Revised Statutes of the United States, relating to special permits for excursions on passenger steamers.

Steamboat inspection amendments.

Certificates to state number of passengers allowable.

R. S., sec. 4464, p. 864, amended.

Decrease of number.

Report if increase allowed.

Excess passengers.

Penalty for increased number.

R. S., sec. 4465, p. 864, amended.

Punishment for knowingly violating.

Excursion vessels.

Special permit for allowing increased number.

R. S., sec. 4466, p. 864, amended.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That section forty-four hundred and sixty-four of the Revised Statutes of the United States be, and is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

"SEC. 4464. The board of local inspectors shall state in every certificate of inspection granted to vessels carrying passengers, other than ferryboats, the number of passengers of each class that any such vessel has accommodation for and can carry with prudence and safety. They shall report their action to the supervising inspector of the district, who may at any time order the number of such passengers decreased, giving his reasons therefor in writing, and thereupon the board of local inspectors shall change the certificate of inspection of such vessel to conform with the decision of the supervising inspector. Whenever the allowance of passengers shall be increased by any board of local inspectors such increase shall be reported to the supervising inspector of the district, together with the reasons therefor, and such increase shall not become effective until the same has been approved in writing by the supervising inspector."

SEC. 2. That section forty-four hundred and sixty-five of the Revised Statutes of the United States be, and is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

"SEC. 4465. It shall not be lawful to take on board of any vessel a greater number of passengers than is stated in the certificate of inspection, and for every violation of this provision the master or owner shall be liable to any person suing for the same to forfeit the amount of passage money and \$10 for each passenger beyond the number allowed.

"The master or owner of the vessel, or either or any of them, who shall knowingly violate this provision shall be liable to a fine of not more than \$100 or imprisonment of not more than thirty days, or both."

SEC. 3. That section forty-four hundred and sixty-six of the Revised Statutes of the United States be, and is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

"SEC. 4466. If any passenger vessel engages in excursions, the board of local inspectors shall issue to such vessel a special permit, in writing, for the occasion, in which shall be stated the additional number of passengers that may be carried and the number and kind