

SEC. 5. That the parties hereinbefore named, to whom the distribution of the said fund is intrusted, shall make a report to Congress on the first Monday in December next of their action in relation to the expenditure of the fund hereby appropriated.

Report.

Approved, February 5, 1877.

CHAP. 57.—An act authorizing the Commissioners of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company to buy in certain real and other property, and to sell the same at public or private sale, and for other purposes.

Feb. 13, 1877.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Commissioners of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, their survivors or survivor, and their or his successors, shall have the right and authority to buy in, for the benefit of said Company, any real or other property which may be offered for sale at public auction to pay debts or liabilities due said Company, if, in their or his judgment, said property will otherwise be sacrificed, and to dispose of the same at public or private sale, as in their or his judgement may be deemed most advantageous to the creditors of said company, furnishing to the purchaser or purchasers of any property thus sold by them or him good and sufficient deeds of conveyance for their respective purchases. *Provided* That no sale of real estate shall be made by said commissioners except at public auction of which due notice shall be given, unless such sale and the terms thereof shall have been first approved by one of the justices of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

Commissioners of Freedman's Savings and Trust Company may buy, etc., property.

Proviso.

Sales at public auction, except.

SEC. 2. That the action of the said commissioners, in buying in each and every of the pieces of real and other property heretofore purchased by them to prevent their sacrifice, and in selling and conveying sundry parcels thereof, is hereby approved and ratified; and said commissioners, their survivors or survivor, and their or his successors are hereby fully authorized and empowered to sell and convey any of said property not heretofore sold to any purchaser or purchasers upon the most favorable terms for the creditors of said company.

Previous purchases, etc. approved.

Approved, February 13, 1877.

CHAP. 58.—An act to provide for a deficiency in the appropriation for the public printing and binding for the current fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Feb. 16 1877.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated to supply deficiencies for Congressional printing and binding, including the Congressional Record, and the necessary materials therefor, for the current fiscal year: *Provided*, That of the above amount five thousand dollars may be used for printing and binding for the Supreme Court: *Provided further*, That from and after the close of the present session of Congress the Public Printer shall pay no greater price for composition than fifty cents per thousand ems and forty cents per hour for time work to printers and book-binders.

Appropriation.

Congressional printing.

Supreme Court.

Proviso. Pay of printers and book-binders.

Approved, February 16, 1877.

CHAP. 59.—An act authorizing the survey of certain townships in Michigan, and making an appropriation therefor.

Feb. 16, 1877.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Commissioner of the General Land Office is hereby directed to cause to be surveyed towns numbered eighteen and nineteen north, of range one west, in the State

Appropriation. Surveying land in Michigan.

of Michigan these towns having never been properly surveyed; and that there be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sum sufficient to pay the expense thereof, not exceeding twenty-five hundred dollars.

Approved, February 16, 1877.

Feb. 17, 1877.

CHAP. 60.—An act to change the time of holding the October term of the United States district court for the district of Nebraska.

Nebraska. Terms
of district court in.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the fall term of the United States district court for the district of Nebraska shall hereafter be held on the second Monday in November in each year, instead of the "Wednesday after the second Tuesday in October," as now provided by law.

Approved, February 17, 1877.

Feb. 20, 1877.

CHAP. 63.—An act to encourage and promote telegraphic communication between America and Europe.

Right to lay tele-
graph cables.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Ferdinand C. Latrobe, William F. Frick, and Robert Garrett, of Maryland, shall have the right to construct, lay, land, and maintain a line or lines of telegraph, or submarine cables, on the Atlantic coast of the United States of America, to connect the American and European coasts by telegraphic lines, wires, or submarine cables: *Provided,* That at least one cable shall be laid and operating between Europe and the Atlantic coast of the United States within three years from the approval of this act; and the at present tariff-rates of messages shall be reduced to one-third or one shilling British currency, per word, over said new cable or cables: *And provided,* That no amalgamation, union, or sale of cable interests established under this act shall be made to any existing European or other cable-companies.

Time allowed.

Rate of charge.

Union or sale for-
bidden.

Privileges of
United States.

SEC 2. That any telegraphic line or cable laid be subject to the following conditions, stipulations, and reservations, to wit: First. The Government of the United States shall be entitled to exercise and enjoy the same or similar privileges with regard to the control and use of such line or lines, or cable or cables, as there may, by law, agreement, or otherwise, be exercised and enjoyed by any foreign government whatever. Secondly. Citizens of the United States shall enjoy the same privileges as to the payment of rates for the transmission of messages as are enjoyed by the citizens of the most favored nations. Thirdly. The transmission of dispatches shall be made in the following order: First, dispatches of state, under such regulations as may be agreed upon by the governments interested, the rates not to exceed those charged to individuals; secondly, dispatches on telegraphic service; and thirdly, private dispatches. Fourthly, The lines of any such cables shall be kept open to the public for the daily transmission of market and commercial reports and intelligence, and all messages, dispatches, and communications shall be forwarded in the order in which they are received, except as hereinbefore provided. Fifthly. Before extending and establishing any such line or lines, or cable or cables, in or over any waters, reefs, islands, shores, and lands within the jurisdiction of the United States, a written acceptance of the terms and conditions imposed by this act shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State by the said company.

Rates charged
citizens of United
States.

Priorities of
transmission.

Order of trans-
mission.

Acceptance of
this act.

Grants to other
persons.

SEC 3. That nothing in this act shall be construed to limit the United States in granting to other persons or companies similar privileges herein contained.