

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.

Time allowed.

Rate of charge.

Union or sale for-
bidden.

Privileges of
United States.

Rates charged
citizens of United
States.

Priorities of
transmission.

Order of trans-
mission.

Acceptance of
this act.

Grants to other
persons.

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.

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.

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.