

be and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the construction of a wagon road from Fort Defiance in the Territory of New Mexico, to the Colorado River, near the mouth of the Mohava River.

Also from Fort Defiance to the Colorado.

APPROVED, February 17, 1857.

CHAP. LV.—An Act to increase the Pay of the Officers of the Army.

Feb. 21, 1857.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the commencement of the present fiscal year, the pay of each commissioned officer of the army, including military storekeepers, shall be increased twenty dollars per month, and that the commutation price of officers' subsistence shall be thirty cents per ration.

Pay of army officers increased.

Commutation price for rations.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of War be authorized, on the recommendation of the council of administration, to extend the additional pay herein provided to any person serving as chaplain, at any post of the army.

Additional pay may be extended to chaplains at army posts.

APPROVED, February 21, 1857.

CHAP. LVI.—An Act relating to Foreign Coins and to the Coinage of Cents at the Mint of the United States.

Feb. 21, 1857.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the pieces commonly known as the quarter, eighth, and sixteenth of the Spanish pillar dollar, and of the Mexican dollar, shall be receivable at the treasury of the United States, and its several offices, and at the several post-offices and land-offices, at the rates of valuation following,—that is to say, the fourth of a dollar, or piece of two reals, at twenty cents; the eighth of a dollar, or piece of one real, at ten cents; and the sixteenth of a dollar, or half real, at five cents.

How much Spanish and Mexican coins are to be received for by United States.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said coins, when so received, shall not again be paid out, or put in circulation, but shall be recoined at the mint. And it shall be the duty of the director of the mint, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to prescribe such regulations as may be necessary and proper, to secure their transmission to the mint for recoinage, and the return or distribution of the proceeds thereof, when deemed expedient, and to prescribe such forms of account as may be appropriate and applicable to the circumstances: *Provided*, That the expenses incident to such transmission or distribution, and of recoinage, shall be charged against the account of silver profit and loss, and the net profits, if any, shall be paid from time to time into the treasury of the United States.

Said coins to be recoined.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That all former acts authorizing the currency of foreign gold or silver coins, and declaring the same a legal tender in payment for debts, are hereby repealed; but it shall be the duty of the director of the mint to cause assays to be made, from time to time, of such foreign coins as may be known to our commerce, to determine their average weight, fineness, and value, and to embrace in his annual report a statement of the results thereof.

Former acts making foreign coins a currency or legal tender repealed.

Assays of foreign coins to be made, and annually reported.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, the standard weight of the cent coined at the mint shall be seventy-two grains, or three twentieths of one ounce troy, with no greater deviation than four grains in each piece; and said cent shall be composed of eighty-eight per centum of copper and twelve per centum of nickel, of such shape and device as may be fixed by the director of the mint, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury; and the coinage of the half cent shall cease.

Weight and composition of cents.