

with lowest responsible bidder.

Proviso.

Proposals to be accepted by Brazil, &c.

Contract to go into effect before Sept. 1, 1865.

Stipulations of contract.

These steamships to be exempt from certain port-charges, &c., if, &c.

May 28, 1864.

Certain lands in Denver may be entered, for the use of the town, at the minimum price.

1844, ch. 17, Vol. v. p. 657.

service by public advertisement for the period of sixty days in one or more newspapers published in the cities of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, respectively, and to contract with the lowest responsible bidder for the same for a term of ten years, to commence from the day the first steamship of the proposed line shall depart from the United States with the mails for Brazil: *Provided*, That proposals for monthly trips — that is to say, for twelve round voyages per annum, out and back — are received and accepted by him within the limit as aforesaid, from a party or parties of undoubted responsibility, possessing ample ability to furnish the steamships required for the service, and offering good and sufficient sureties for the faithful performance of such contract: *And provided, further*, That such proposals shall be accepted by the government of Brazil, and that distinct and separate contracts with each government, containing similar provisions, shall be executed by such accepted bidder or bidders; each government to be responsible only for its proportion of the subsidy to be paid for the service.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That any contract which the Postmaster-General may execute under the authority of this act shall go into effect on or before the first day of September, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five; and shall, in addition to the usual stipulations of ocean mail steamship contracts, provide that the steamships offered for the service shall be constructed of the best materials and after the most approved model, with all the modern improvements adapted for sea-going steamships of the first class; and shall, before their approval and acceptance by the Postmaster-General, be subject to inspection and survey by an experienced naval constructor, to be detailed for that purpose by the Secretary of the Navy, whose report shall be made to the Postmaster-General; that the two governments shall be entitled to have transported, free of expense, on each and every steamer, a mail-agent to take charge of and arrange the mail matter, to whom suitable accommodations for that purpose shall be assigned; that in case of failure from any cause to perform any of the regular monthly voyages stipulated for in the contract, a pro rata deduction shall be made from the compensation, on account of such omitted voyage or voyages; that suitable fines and penalties may be imposed for delays and irregularities in the regular performance of the service according to contract; and that the Postmaster-General shall have the power to determine the contract at any time, in case of its being underlet or assigned to any other party.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the mail steamships employed in the service authorized by this act shall be exempt from all port-charges and custom-house dues at the port of departure and arrival in the United States: *Provided*, That a similar immunity from port-charges and custom-house dues is granted by the government of Brazil.

APPROVED, May 28, 1864.

CHAP. XCIX. — *An Act for the Relief of the Citizens of Denver, in the Territory of Colorado.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the provisions of an act of congress entitled "An act for the relief of the citizens of towns upon the lands of the United States, under certain circumstances," approved May twenty-third, eighteen hundred and forty-four, be so extended as to authorize the probate judge of Arapahoe county, in the territory of Colorado, to enter, at the minimum price, in trust for the several use and benefit of the rightful occupants of said land and the bona fide owners of the improvements thereon, according to their respective interests, the following legal subdivisions of land, or such portions thereof as are settled and actually occupied for town purposes by the town of Denver aforesaid,

to wit: Section number thirty-three, and the west half of section number thirty-four, in township number three south of range number sixty-eight west of the sixth principal meridian: *Provided, however,* That there shall be reserved from such sale and entry such blocks or lots in the town of Denver as may be necessary for government purposes, to be designated by the commissioner of the general land-office.

Lots for government purposes to be reserved.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That in all respects, except as herein modified, the execution of the foregoing provisions shall be controlled by the provisions of said act of twenty-third May, eighteen hundred and forty-four, and the rules and regulations of the commissioner of the general land-office.

Provisions of act of 1844, ch. 17, &c., otherwise to apply.

APPROVED, May 28, 1864.

CHAP. CI. — *An Act to provide for the Payment of the Claims of Peruvian Citizens, under the Convention between the United States and Peru, of the twelfth of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-three.*

June 1, 1864.

1864, ch. 138.  
Post, p. 141.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That for the purpose of discharging the obligations of the United States, under the convention with Peru, of the twelfth of January last, there be paid to Stephen G. Montano, or to his legal representatives, in the current money of the United States, the sum of forty-one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two dollars and thirty-eight cents; and to Juan del Carmen Vergel, or his legal representatives, the sum of one thousand one hundred and seventy dollars, in the silver money of the United States, or its equivalent, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Payments to Stephen G. Montano and Juan del Carmen Vergel.

APPROVED, June 1, 1864.

CHAP. CII. — *An Act in Relation to Franked Matter.*

June 1, 1864.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That all communications relating to the official business of the department to which they are addressed, of whatever origin, addressed to the chiefs of the several executive departments of the government, or to such principal officers of each executive department, being heads of bureaus or chief clerks, or one duly authorized by the Postmaster-General to frank official matter, shall be received and conveyed by mail free of postage without being endorsed "official business," or with the name of the writer.

Official communications to heads of departments, &c., to be sent free of postage without endorsement.

APPROVED, June 1, 1864.

CHAP. CIII. — *An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act making a Grant of Land[s] to the State of Iowa, in alternate Sections, to aid in the Construction of certain Railroads in said State," approved May fifteen, eighteen hundred and fifty-six.*

June 2, 1864.

1856, ch. 28.  
Vol. x. p. 9.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad Company, a corporation established by the laws of the State of Iowa, and to which the said state granted a portion of the land-grant mentioned in the title of this act, to aid in the construction of a railroad from Davenport to Council Bluffs in said state, may modify or change the location of the uncompleted portion of its line, as shown by the map thereof now on file in the general land-office of the United States, so as to secure a better and more expeditious line for connection with the Iowa branch of the Union Pacific Railroad: *Provided, nevertheless,* That said new line, if located, shall in every case pass through the corporate limits of the cities of Des Moines and Council Bluffs; and the right of way over the public lands of the United States is hereby granted to said railroad company for that purpose: *Provided,* That said line shall pass through the town of Newton, in Jasper County or as near

The Mississippi and Missouri Railroad Company may change location of part of line.

New line to go through Des Moines and Council Bluffs; and Newton, if, &c.