

Louis, Missouri; including the use, lighting, and heating of mail building and the transfer service at Saint Louis, at the rate of not exceeding fifty thousand dollars per annum, beginning on the first day of July, eighteen hundred and ninety nine.

Congressional committee to investigate, etc., continued.

Ante, p. 445.

Vacancies, how filled.

Report.

Reappropriation of unexpended balance.

Franking privilege extended to Hawaiian Islands.

Money orders.—identification of payee, etc., not to be waived, etc.

—may be drawn without exacting additional fee for correcting errors of postmasters.—forms.

Appropriation for deficiencies in revenues.

SEC. 4. That the commission to investigate the question whether or not excessive prices are paid to the railroad companies for the transportation of the mails and as compensation for postal-car service, and all sources of revenue and all expenditures of the postal service, and rates of postage upon all postal matter, authorized by section five of the "Act making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department for the fiscal year eighteen hundred and ninety-nine," is hereby continued during the Fifty-sixth Congress, with all the powers and duties imposed upon it by said section five of said Act.

Any vacancy occurring in the membership of said commission, by resignation or otherwise, shall be filled by the presiding officer of the Senate or House, respectively, according as the vacancy occurs in the Senate or House representation on said committee.

And said commission shall make report as soon as practicable after the beginning of the first session of the Fifty-sixth Congress. The unexpended balance of the sum appropriated by said section five of said Act is hereby reappropriated and made available during the Fifty-sixth Congress for the expenses of said commission, payable, on the draft of the chairman of said commission, in sums not exceeding one thousand dollars at any one time, and an additional sum of seven thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for said purpose.

The franking privilege, as the same is regulated by law, shall extend to the Hawaiian Islands.

SEC. 5. On and after April first, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, postmasters shall not issue any money order conditioned that identification of payee, endorsee, or attorney may be waived, nor shall any postmaster pay any money order issued on or subsequent to said date without requiring identification of the payee, endorsee, or attorney. Money orders may be drawn by the Superintendent of the Money-Order System without the exaction of an additional fee for the purpose of correcting errors made by issuing or paying postmasters; and the Postmaster-General shall prescribe the forms for the issue of money orders.

SEC. 6. That if the revenues of the Post-Office Department shall be insufficient to meet the appropriations made by this Act, a sum equal to such deficiency of the revenues of said Department is hereby appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to supply said deficiencies in the revenues for the Post-Office Department for the year ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred.

Approved, March 1, 1899.

March 1, 1899.

CHAP. 328.—An Act To amend section one of an Act to provide for the entry of lands in Greer County, Oklahoma Territory, to give preference right to settlers, and for other purposes.

Greer County, Okla. Settlers who purchased prior to annexation may perfect title.

Vol. 29, p. 490.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section one of an Act to give preference right to settlers in Greer County, Oklahoma Territory, is hereby so amended as to allow parties who have had the benefit of the homestead laws of the United States, and who had purchased lands in Greer County from the State of Texas prior to March sixteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-six, to perfect titles to said lands according to the provisions of section one hereinbefore mentioned, under such regulations as the Commissioner of the General Land Office may prescribe, and according to the legal subdivisions of the

public surveys, if no adverse rights have attached: *Provided*, That no settler shall be permitted to acquire to exceed three hundred and twenty acres under this provision.

Proviso.
—limited to 320 acres.

Approved, March 1, 1899.

CHAP. 329.—An Act To authorize the Georgia Pine Railway, of Georgia, to construct a bridge across the Flint River, a navigable stream in Decatur County, Georgia.

March 1, 1899.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Georgia Pine Railway Company, of Georgia, be, and is hereby, authorized to construct and maintain and operate a bridge across the Flint River, a navigable stream, in the county of Decatur, State of Georgia; said bridge to be located at or near the town of Bainbridge.

Georgia Pine Railway may bridge Flint River, Georgia.

SEC. 2. That said bridge shall be built and located under and subject to such regulations for the security of navigation as the Secretary of War may prescribe; and to secure that object the said Georgia Pine Railway Company, of Georgia, shall submit for his examination designs and drawings of the bridge, and maps of the location, and until the said plans and location are approved by him the bridge shall not be commenced or built; and should any change be made in said bridge, before or after completion, such changes shall be likewise subject to the approval of the Secretary of War.

Secretary of War to approve plans, etc.

SEC. 3. That said bridge shall be kept and managed so as to offer reasonable and proper means for the passage of vessels and craft through or under the same; and for the safety of vessels passing at night there shall be displayed on said bridge at night, from sunset to sunrise, at the expense of the owners thereof, such lights or other signals as the Light-House Board may prescribe. And any changes in said bridge which the Secretary of War may at any time deem necessary, and order in the interests of navigation, shall be made by the owners thereof at their own expense.

—changes.

Aids to navigation.

Lights.

Expense of changes.

SEC. 4. That all railroad companies desiring the use of the bridge authorized by this Act shall have and be entitled to equal rights and privileges relative to the passage of railway trains or cars over the same and over the approaches thereto upon the payment of a reasonable compensation for such use; and in case the owner or owners of said bridge and the several railroad companies, or any one of them, desiring such use shall fail to agree upon the sum or sums to be paid, and upon rules and conditions to which each shall conform in using said bridge, all matters at issue between them shall be decided by the Secretary of War upon a hearing of the allegations and proof of the parties; and equal privileges in the use of said bridge shall be granted to all telegraph and telephone companies.

Rights of railroads to use.

—disagreement with owner of bridge.

Telegraph, etc., companies.

SEC. 5. That the bridge constructed, maintained, and operated under this Act and according to its limitations shall be a lawful structure, and shall be recognized and known as a post route, upon which also no higher charge shall be made for the transportation over the same of the mails, the troops, and the munitions of war of the United States than the rate per mile paid for transportation of said mails, troops, and munitions over the railroads and public highways leading to said bridge; and the United States shall have the right of way for postal, telegraph, and telephone purposes over said bridge.

To be lawful structure and post route.

SEC. 6. That this Act shall be null and void if actual construction of the said bridge be not commenced in one year and completed in three years from the date hereof.

Commencement and completion.

SEC. 7. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Amendment.

Approved, March 1, 1899.