

A communication by stages between Mobile, in Alabama, and Pensacola, in Florida; and between Pensacola and Tallahassee.

A more frequent and direct communication between the seat of Government in Georgia, and Tallahassee, the seat of Government in Florida.

A more frequent and direct communication by stages between Savannah and Macon, in Georgia.

If all these improvements were made, together with some others of minor consideration as to expense, which are, nevertheless, quite important, the expense would amount, by estimate, to about \$85,000.

The advantages to the public would unquestionably be very great: individual accommodation would be promoted; business would be facilitated; intelligence would be more extensively diffused; the bonds of affection between distant parts would be strengthened by the more speedy and frequent intercourse.

But whether these benefits would be sufficient to countervail the expense, the legislative authority will determine.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. BARRY.

HON. HENRY W. CONNER,

Of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, House of Representatives.

21st CONGRESS.]

No. 92.

[1st SESSION.]

MAIL GUARD DISABLED IN SERVICE.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 19, 1830.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Kentucky, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, made the following report on the petition of Patrick Green:

That it appears that the said Green was employed to guard the mail from Baltimore to Havre-de-Grace in the year 1822; that, during the discharge of his duty in said service, the mail was attacked in the year aforesaid; and, in the faithful and gallant conduct of said Green in the discharge of his said duty, he received a blow on his head from a pistol, by one of the robbers, which greatly affects him, and disables him from gaining a living by hard labor, as will appear by the petition and other proofs in the case, (marked A,) and to which the committee refer, and make a part of this report. The certificate of the surgeon general fixes the disability at one-half. The committee think the petitioner entitled to relief, and report a bill for a half pension, viz: four dollars per month.

A.

Petition of Patrick Green, praying compensation for injuries sustained in defence of the United States mail.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: The petition of the subscriber respectfully represents:

That, in the spring of the year 1822, he was appointed guard to the great eastern mail between Baltimore and Havre-de-Grace, which duty he performed without molestation, until the 8th of July of the following year, when an attempt was made to rob the mail near the Great Falls of the Gunpowder, as the following extracts from the New York Gazette will more fully show:

“JULY 11, 1823.

“*Daring robbery of the mail.*—We yesterday received proof-sheets from the several editors in Baltimore, furnishing the particulars of another daring robbery of the mail. Between 1 and 2 o'clock this morning, a most daring robbery of the eastern mail was committed about two miles east of the Great Falls of the Gunpowder. The mail was on its way from the east to Baltimore, and at the place above mentioned was arrested in its progress by a fence which had been erected across the road. The guard was taken about thirty yards from the carriage, where the ruffian who had first struck him stood over him with a pistol presented to his breast. The villain asked the guard why he had fired at him? to which the latter replied, he was only doing his duty; that he was sworn to protect the mail. Some of the robbers called out to their comrade to shoot him, or they would shoot him, (the robber.) The guard begged earnestly for his life, as they talked of tying him, and kept him in the most anxious suspense as to his fate. At one time the robber held his hands across the eyes of the guard for about five minutes. During the time these events took place, (which the guard supposes was about half an hour,) the rest of the robbers were engaged in rifling the mail. The robber then directed the guard to sit down at the foot of a tree, and not to stir at the peril of his life. The guard was struck across the head with a pistol, with which one of the ruffians was armed; the blow deprived him for a short time of his senses.

“At the spot where the robbery took place, there was a high bank on each side of the road. The guard, Patrick Green, acted with much courage and good conduct, having discharged his blunderbuss at the robbers when they first discovered themselves, and afterwards snapped a pistol at one, and discharged the other pistol at another before they came upon him. It appears it was the last shot from the pistol which wounded Moore in the breast, who was armed with a gun.”

Your petitioner further begs leave to state to your honorable body that, at the moment the attack was made by the robbers, the driver of the mail deserted him and fled, so that he was left entirely alone to contend with the band. At one time Moore presented a musket to his side, and told him to give up, or he would blow him through. The guard then fired the pistol, which wounded Moore severely, and the next instant was struck by Emenheizer (at whom he had snapped a pistol) across the head, which blow threw him back into the stage and deprived him of his senses.

From the wound your petitioner received in the head, he was unable to do any thing to advantage for himself for upwards of six months after, being the greater part of the time under the hands of doctors, and, of course, during that time at a very considerable expense. He is still suffering from the effects of the wound, which, though healed, at times deprives him of the power of earning a subsistence for himself and a helpless family, never having received any compensation for his services and sufferings, other than the amount of his wages for which he contracted.

Your petitioner, therefore, prays your honorable body to afford him such relief as in your wisdom may be deemed expedient and proper. He refers to the annexed certificates for testimonials of character, &c. And, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

PATRICK GREEN.

NEW YORK, January 20, 1830.

NEW YORK, *January 30, 1830.*

We, the subscribers, being well convinced, from circumstances, that the above petitioner, Patrick Green, has, in his foregoing petition, represented a true statement, do most cordially recommend him as a person highly deserving some remuneration from the Government for services rendered by him in protecting the United States mail.

J. MORTON,
JOHN LOZIER,
M. M. NOAH,
ROBERT WHITE,
R. RIKER,
H. ECKFORD,
ROB'T McQUEEN,

THOMAS MOONEY,
SAM. S. GOUVERNEUR,
THOMAS WHITFIELD,
JEROMUS JOHNSON,
A. W. LENT,
PETER J. NEVINS,
S. CAMBRELENG.

BALTIMORE, *June 30, 1829.*

We, the subscribers, have no hesitation in saying that the bearer, Patrick Green, is the person who risked his life in defending the great eastern mail, while on its way from Philadelphia to Baltimore, in the year 1823, July 8th, against three robbers, namely, Emenheizer, Ward, and Moore. Two of said persons were convicted; one turned States' evidence. Emenheizer and Ward are now, and have been since their conviction, confined in Baltimore county jail.

JACOB SMALL, *Mayor City of Baltimore.*
JOHN C. WHITE,
WILLIAM LORMAN,
J. S. SKINNER,
DAVID BARNUM,
J. I. COHEN, JUN. & BROTHERS,
WILLIAM PATTERSON.

BALTIMORE, *June 30, 1829.*

Patrick Green, the person named in the within note, and who is bearer of this, was employed by us as mail guard at the time mentioned. We take pleasure in bearing testimony to his good conduct on that occasion. His defence of the mail was so spirited, that he wounded two of the robbers, which led to their apprehension on the following morning, and to the recovery of every package of the stolen mail.

STOCKTON & STOKES.

21st CONGRESS.]

No. 93.

[1st SESSION.]

CLAIM FOR MAKING THE POST ROAD FROM MOBILE TO PASCAGOULA.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, APRIL 28, 1830.

Mr. BIBB made the following report:

The Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, of the Senate, to whom was referred the petition of Thomas Rhodes, respectfully report:

That, on the 17th June, 1828, the Postmaster General advertised for proposals for carrying the mails between Mobile and New Orleans thrice a week, for four years.

On the 16th August, 1828, Thomas Rhodes made his proposals, by letter, for carrying the mails for four years, from Mobile, by Pascagoula bay, to New Orleans, at the sum of \$14,000 per year; the road from Mobile to Pascagoula, a distance of forty miles, to be made by or at the expense of the United States. This road he proposed to make, and keep in repair for four years, for \$4,000, or \$100 per mile, the money to be paid at the completion of the work; the mails to be carried on horseback from Mobile to Pascagoula until the road was completed, and afterwards in stages, and from Pascagoula to New Orleans in steamboats.

By letter of the 7th of October, 1828, Thomas Rhodes was informed, "The Postmaster General has decided to accept your proposal to transport the mail by land and water between Mobile and New Orleans at the rate of \$14,000 per annum. You will begin with all practicable expedition, and convey the mail upon a plan designated by the postmasters of Mobile and New Orleans. A contract will be made out, and sent for you to execute."

The contract was made out at the Department, bearing date of the 1st October, 1828, and is signed by Rhodes as of that day; but the bond with security for his performance was not executed until the 30th March, 1829.

The contract, as prepared and signed, is for carrying the mail "from Mobile, by Pascagoula, to New Orleans, and back, thrice a week, in stages and steamboats," at \$3,500 per quarter, to commence on the 15th December, 1828, and to continue until the 1st November, 1832.

On the 16th February, 1829, Rhodes's claim for compensation for opening the road was answered by a letter from the Department, informing him that it could not be paid without a special act of Congress for that purpose.

It appears that Rhodes opened the road, at great expense, between Mobile and Pascagoula, so that the mail could be conveyed in stages over that part of the route as marked out by the postmasters at Mobile and New Orleans, under the direction of the Postmaster General. And it further appears that this road is yet used for the transportation of the mails, so that the labor and money expended upon that road has been for public benefit.

Mr. Rhodes commenced the transportation of the mails; but, on the 14th of April, 1829, other proposals were invited by advertisement, and Mr. Rhodes was informed of the forfeiture of his contract. He now petitions for compensation for opening the road, which the Department has not paid, for want of the authority of law to make such compensation.

The circumstances under which Mr. Rhodes expended his labor and money in opening this road appear to the committee to form a just basis for some compensation. The route over land to connect the transportation of the mails by steamboats was laid out under the superintendence of the Post Office Department. The road was through an uninhabited country. Stages could not pass until the road so marked out was opened, causewayed, and bridged. The proposals were to carry the mails over this part of the route on horseback, until the road was opened for stages, and then in stages; the road to be opened by or at the expense of the United States; and the proposal further was,