

praisement shall be made, the said company shall have the privilege of paying, within ninety days thereafter, to the receiver at Savannah, the amount of said appraised value; and upon such payment, the possession and title to the said stock and bonds, shall vest in, and be transferred to the said company: *Provided, however,* That by accepting the relief hereby granted, and upon payment of the said appraised value, the said company shall be held and taken to have relinquished all claim against the Confederate States, for compensation for the use of their said railroad.

Proviso.

APPROVED April 16, 1863.

April 16, 1863.

CHAP. XXII.—*An Act to allow minors to hold commissions in the Army.*

Minors allowed to hold commissions in the army.

*The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,* That from and after the passage of this act, commissions in the Army of the Confederate States, and in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States, may be issued to persons under twenty-one years of age, except in the case of officers who are required by law to give bond.

APPROVED April 16, 1863.

April 16, 1863.

CHAP. XXIII.—*An Act to authorize the increase of the compensation of route agents, and to increase the per diem allowance to special agents of the Post-Office Department.*

Maximum compensation to route agents in the service of the Post-Office Department.

*The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,* That from and after the passage of this act, the maximum compensation to be paid to route agents in the service of the Post-Office Department, shall not exceed twelve hundred dollars per annum.

Compensation of special agents.

SEC. 2. That from and after the passage of this act, the annual compensation of special agents of the Post-Office Department shall be sixteen hundred dollars per annum; and they shall also be allowed the sum of three dollars per day for their travelling and incidental expenses while actually engaged in travelling on the business of the Department.

Travelling and incidental expenses allowed.

APPROVED April 16, 1863.

April 16, 1863.

CHAP. XXIV.—*An Act to establish a preferred mail across the Mississippi River.*

Mail route to be established across the Mississippi River.

*The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,* That the Postmaster General of the Confederate States is authorized to establish a mail route for the more speedy transmission of letters and dispatches, only, between the States lying east and those lying west of the Mississippi River. Postage on mail matter to be sent by said route shall be prepaid at the rate of fifty cents for each half ounce; but in calculating the weight of such mail matter, any fraction of an ounce less than a half shall be regarded as a half ounce.

Rate of postage.

Letters and dispatches to have preference over all other matter.

SEC. 2. Letters and dispatches for the route hereby authorized shall have preference over all other mail matter in the transmission of the mails across the Mississippi River.

Postmaster General to establish

SEC. 3. The Postmaster General is authorized to establish regulations for the prompt mailing, forwarding, and distributing of mail matter on