

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

said route, and he may apply the money arising, from time to time, from the postage thereon in the employment of couriers, or other means, for the safer, more frequent, and more rapid transmission of said preferred mails. necessary regulations. How to apply the money arising from the postage.

APPROVED April 16, 1863.

CHAP. XXV.—An Act to prevent the absence of officers and soldiers without leave.

April 16, 1863.

*The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact*, That no officer or soldier of the army shall receive pay for any period during which he may be absent without leave, or beyond the leave granted, from competent authority, according to the regulations of the army: *Provided*, That this restriction shall not affect the sick and wounded in hospitals. Officers or soldiers absent without leave to receive no pay. Proviso.

SEC. 2. In order to enforce the requirements of the foregoing section, it is hereby made the duty of commanding officers of companies to state upon the muster and pay-rolls of their companies the length of time any officer or soldier has been absent therefrom, without leave of competent authority, since the previous payment, when the deduction of pay for such absence will be made by the quartermaster from the amount otherwise due the officer or soldier; and any commander of a company who shall fail to note such absence on the muster and pay-rolls of the company shall be required to refund to the Government the amount forfeited by such absent officer or soldier, unless it shall already have been received from the officer or soldier so absent. Length of absence to be stated on the muster and pay rolls. Deduction of pay for absence. Forfeiture incurred by commanders of companies for failure to note such absence.

SEC. 3. Officers shall certify upon honor on their pay accounts whether they have or have not been absent, without leave by competent authority, within the time for which they claim pay; and if absent without leave, they shall state in their certificates the time and period of such absences. In like manner, commanding officers of companies shall certify on honor on their pay accounts that they have stated fully and correctly on the muster and pay-rolls of their companies the length of time each officer and soldier of the company has been absent without leave since the last payment of the company. What facts officers are required to certify on their pay accounts.

SEC. 4. That this act shall not be construed to relieve any officer or private from any other penalty to which he may be liable by existing laws or regulations. This act not to relieve from other penalties.

APPROVED April 16, 1863.

CHAP. XXVI.—An Act to amend the several acts prescribing the mode of publishing the laws and resolutions of the Confederate States.

April 16, 1863.

*The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact*, That it shall be the duty of the Attorney General to select from the laws and resolutions of the present and future sessions of the Congress such as may be of a public nature, and which, in his judgment, require immediate publication, and cause the same to be inserted weekly, for four weeks, in three public gazettes published in each State, selecting such gazettes as shall, in his judgment, most generally distribute the laws and resolutions throughout the entire limits of the several States. 1861, Feb. 21. May 21. Aug. 5. 1862, Feb. 17. Publication of the laws and resolutions of Congress.

SEC. 2. Any printer or publisher who may desire to print and