

SECRET

No. 175. An Act to provide for the safety of the archives of the Government and for the assembling of Congress at any place other than the seat of Government.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the President is hereby authorized at any time when, in his judgment, the exigencies of the country render it impolitic for the archives of the Government to remain in the City of Richmond, to remove the several executive departments with their archives and all other archives of the Government to such place as he may deem the interest of the country and the safety of the archives may require.

Sec. 2. That if, in the opinion of the President, the public exigencies shall require that Congress shall assemble at any place other than the seat of Government in the City of Richmond, he is hereby authorized to designate the place at which the Congress shall assemble.

Sec. 3. That a joint committee of three members of Congress (consisting of two members of the House of Representatives and one member of the Senate) be appointed to make suitable arrangements for the accommodation of Congress, in the event the President shall designate any place other than the seat of Government for the assembling of Congress under the second section of this act.

Sec. 4. The several officers of the Senate and House of Representatives are hereby authorized to remove their respective records, books and papers to the place designated by the President for the assembling of Congress.

Approved, March 14, 1865.

[Text from original bill in The National Archives.]

No. 176. An Act to authorize the Postmaster General to purchase United States postage stamps for certain purposes.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That in order to facilitate a correspondence between the citizens of the Confederacy and our prisoners in the hands of

the enemy, the Postmaster General be and is hereby authorized to purchase and keep on hand, for the purpose of distribution and sale to the different postmasters of the Confederate States, such a supply of United States postage stamps as he may deem necessary and sufficient for the purposes herein indicated.

Approved, March 14, 1865.

[Text from original bill in The National Archives.]

No. 177. An Act to diminish the number of exemptions and details.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That so much of the "Act to organize forces to serve during the war," approved February the seventeenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, as exempts one person as overseer or agriculturist on each farm or plantation, upon which there were, at specified times, fifteen able bodied field hands between the ages of sixteen and fifty, upon certain conditions, is hereby repealed; and said persons shall be liable to military service upon the expiration of the time for which they secured exemptions, by reason of having executed bonds for one year from the date thereof: *Provided*, That exemptions of persons over forty-five years of age may be granted under the provisions of the act aforesaid.

Sec. 2. No exemption or detail shall be granted by the President or Secretary of War, by virtue of said act, except of persons lawfully reported by a board of surgeons as unable to perform active service in the field; persons over the age of forty years, and of laborers in the Nitre and Mining Bureau, in localities where slave labor cannot, with safety, be employed, artisans, mechanics or persons of scientific skill, employed by or working for the Confederate or State government, and shown, by proper testimony, to be such laborers, artisans, mechanics or persons of scientific skill; and with the same exceptions, all exemptions and details heretofore granted by the President or Secretary of War, by virtue of said Act, are hereby revoked.