

May 11, 1861.

CHAP. VIII.—*An Act to make further provision for the public defence.*

Preamble, Whereas, war exists between the United States and the Confederate States; and whereas the public welfare may require the reception of volunteer forces into the service of the Confederate States, without the formality and delay of a call upon the respective States: [Therefore]—

President authorized to receive into service companies, battalions or regiments. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the President be authorized to receive into service such companies, battalions or regiments, either mounted or on foot, as may tender themselves, and he may require, without the delay of a formal call upon the respective States, to serve for such time as he may prescribe.*

Organization of volunteer forces. SEC. 2. Such volunteer forces who may be accepted under this act, except as herein differently provided, shall be organized in accordance with and subject to all the provisions of the act entitled "An act to provide for the public defence," and be entitled to all the allowances provided therein; and when mustered into service, may be attached to such divisions, brigades or regiments as the President may direct, or ordered upon such independent or detached service as the President may deem expedient: *Provided, however, That battalions and regiments may be enlisted from states not of this Confederacy, and the President may appoint all or any of the field officers thereof.*

Allowances. Service. *Provided, however, That battalions and regiments may be enlisted from states not of this Confederacy, and the President may appoint all or any of the field officers thereof.*

Battalions, etc., from States not of the Confederacy. President may appoint the field officers. SEC. 3. The President shall be authorized to commission all officers entitled to commissions, of such volunteer forces as may be received under the provisions of this act. And upon the request of the officer commanding such volunteer regiment, battalion or company, the President may attach a supernumerary officer to each company, detailed from the regular army for that purpose, and for such time as the President may direct

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CHAP. IX.—*An Act relative to telegraph lines of the Confederate States.*

President authorized to take the control of telegraph lines. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That during the existing war, the President be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to take such control of such of the lines of telegraph in the Confederate States, and of such of the offices connected therewith, as will enable him effectually to supervise the communications passing through the same, to the end that no communications shall be conveyed of the military operations of the government to endanger the success of such operations, nor any communication calculated to injure the cause of the Confederate States, or to give aid and comfort to their enemies.*

To appoint agents to supervise communications. SEC. 2. The President shall appoint trustworthy agents in such offices, and at such points on the various lines as he may think fit, whose duty it shall be to supervise all communications sent or passing through said lines, and to prevent the transmission of any communication deemed to be detrimental to the public service.

When he may take possession of the lines. SEC. 3. In case the owners and managers of said lines shall refuse to permit such supervision, or shall fail or refuse to keep up and continue the business on said lines, the President is hereby empowered to take possession of the same for the purposes aforesaid.

To issue instructions to the agents and operators of the lines. SEC. 4. The President shall from time to time issue instructions to the agents so appointed, and to the operators of the various lines, to regulate the transmission of communications touching the operations of the government, or calculated to affect the public welfare.

SEC. 5. That the President, at his discretion, may employ the operators of the lines as the agents of the government, so that in this as in all other respects, there may be as little interference with the business and management of such lines as may be compatible with the public interest.

May employ the operators as agents of the government.

SEC. 6. That the compensation of the agents appointed under this act, where such agents are not officers of the company, and the expense attending the execution of the provisions of this act, shall be paid out of the treasury.

Compensation of agents to be paid out of the treasury.

SEC. 7. That no communications in cypher, nor enigmatical, or other doubtful communication, shall be transmitted, unless the person sending the same shall be known to the agent of the government to be trustworthy, nor until the real purport of such communication shall be explained to such agent.

Communications in cypher and enigmatical communications.

SEC. 8. That the President is hereby authorized, whenever it may be found necessary or advisable for the successful prosecution of the war, to extend existing lines of telegraph, or make connections between the same, the expense of contracting such additional lines to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Extension and connection of lines.

SEC. 9. That all present and future officers of the telegraph lines engaged in receiving and transmitting intelligence within the Confederate States shall, as soon as practicable after the passage of this act or after their appointment, take and subscribe before any judicial officer of any one of the Confederate States, the following oath: "I, A B, do solemnly swear that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the Confederate States of America, and will not, knowingly, directly or indirectly, transmit through the telegraph any communication or information calculated to injure the cause of the Confederate States, or to give aid or comfort to their enemies."

Oath required of officers.

SEC. 10. That if any person shall knowingly send or transmit any message or communication touching the military operations of the government, without the same being first submitted to the inspection of the agent of the government, or any message calculated to aid and promote the cause of the enemies of the Confederate States, he shall be subject to indictment in the district court of the Confederate States, and on conviction shall be fined in a sum not less than five hundred dollars, and imprisoned for a term not less than one year.

Communications touching military operations.

Party sending, subject to indictment.

Fine and imprisonment.

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CHAP. X.—An Act to amend an act entitled "An act to fix the pay of members of the Congress of the Confederate States of America," approved March 11, 1861.

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The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the above entitled act, approved March the eleventh, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, be so amended and construed as to provide, that in computing the mileage to which members are entitled, the distance shall be estimated by the usual route of travel from the residence of the member to the place where Congress may assemble.

How mileage allowed members of Congress computed.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That this act shall take effect and be of force from its passage.

Commencement of act.

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