

CHAP. LVII.—*An Act to amend an act entitled "An act to establish a Patent Office, and to provide for the granting and issue of patents for new and useful discoveries, inventions, improvements and designs," approved May 21, 1861.* August 30, 1861.

*The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,* That the commissioner of patents, with the approval of the Attorney General, shall have power to appoint, in addition to the examiners of patents, provided by the second section of the above recited act, such assistant examiners at a salary of fifteen hundred dollars per annum, as may be required to transact the current business of the patent office with dispatch.

Act of 1861, M. y 21, ch. 46, amend. ed.

Assistant examiners of patents may be appointed.

Salary.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the commissioner, with like approval, may appoint a messenger for said office, at a salary of three hundred and sixty dollars per annum.

Messenger for patent office. His salary.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the commissioner be, and he is hereby, authorized to require applicants for patents, and all other persons with whom he is obliged to correspond or to whom drawings and other papers have to be returned for alteration or correction, to deposit a sufficient sum of money to pay the postage: *Provided,* That in no single case shall the deposit so required exceed two dollars.

Pro payment of postage by applicants for patents, and others.

APPROVED August 30, 1861.

CHAP. LVIII.—*An Act to provide a mode of authenticating claims for money against the Confederate States, not otherwise provided for.* August 30, 1861.

*The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,* That all parties having claims for money against the Government of the Confederate States, for the proof and payment of which there is no mode provided by existing laws, before receiving payment of the same, shall file them in the office of the Attorney General; and shall produce, before said officer, at such time, and in such manner as he shall appoint, their testimony proving, or tending to prove, such claims. And, at the next succeeding session of Congress after the hearing of proof, or at any session of Congress during which a hearing of proof upon any claim is had by the Attorney General, he shall report to the Congress such claims as he has allowed and recommend their payment, and he shall also report such claims as he has refused to allow.

Claims for money against the U. S. to be filed in the office of Attorney General. Proof.

Report thereon by Attorney General to Congress.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That all citizens of the Confederate States holding demands against the Government of the United States, may file the same in the office of the Attorney General; and the Attorney General shall hear proof of such claims, and cause such proof to be taken down in writing and filed in his office; or he may, in his discretion, permit written testimony, taken by deposition, or in answer to interrogatories filed, to be placed on file in his office, as evidence of such claims. But he shall not pass upon the sufficiency of such evidence, nor make a report to Congress upon such claims, until the close of the existing war.

Claims of citizens of the U. S. against the U. S. may be filed in the office of the Attorney General. Proof.

When Attorney General to pass upon and report such claims.

APPROVED August 30, 1861.

CHAP. LIX.—*An Act to collect, for distribution, the moneys remaining in the several Post Offices of the Confederate States at the time the postal service was taken in charge by said Government.* August 30, 1861.

*The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,* That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to collect all moneys due

Postmaster General to collect mo-

neys due from the several postmasters within the Confederate States, and which postmasters at the time the C. S. took charge of postal service. they had not paid over at the time the Confederate States took the charge of the postal service, and the several postmasters are hereby required to account to the General Post-Office of this Government under the same rules, regulations and penalties that were prescribed by the law under which said moneys were received.

How to be appropriated.

SEC. 2. The moneys so received shall be kept separate and distinct from the other funds of the Post-Office Department, and shall constitute a fund for the *pro rata* payment of claims for postal service which accrued before the Postmaster General took charge of the postal service in the States respectively comprising this Confederacy, as may hereafter be provided.

To make proclamation to citizens of the C. S. who have rendered postal service under the U. S. Government to present their claims, verified, &c., to his department.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to make proclamation that all persons who are citizens of the Confederate States of America, and who may have rendered postal service in any of the States of this Confederacy, under contracts or appointments made by the United States Government before the Confederate States Government took charge of such service, shall present their claims to his department, verified and established according to such rules as he shall prescribe, by a time therein to be set forth not less than six months, and requiring the claimant to

Oath of claimant.

state, under oath, how much has been and the date of such payments, on account of the contract or appointment under which said claim occurred, and what fund or provision has been set apart or made for the further payment of the whole or any portion of the balance of such claim, by the Government of the United States, or of any of the States; and they shall also state, on oath, whether they performed fully the service according to their contracts or appointments during the time for which they claim pay, and if not, what partial service they did perform, and what deductions have been made from their pay, so far as they know, on account of any failure, or partial failure, to perform such service; and the Postmaster General shall, as soon as he shall have collected such moneys from said postmasters, and ascertained the amount of claims against the Post-Office Department and the amount received respectively by the claimants as aforesaid, and the provisions, if any, for future payment, make a report of the same, so that future action may be taken thereon as respects the distribution.

Report thereof by the Postmaster General.

Claims, when barred.

SEC. 4. All claims for postal service required to be presented by this bill shall be barred as against this fund, unless presented within six months after the proclamation of the Postmaster General shall have been made.

APPROVED August 30, 1861.

August 30, 1861. CHAP. LX.—An Act to require the receipt by the Postmasters of the Confederate States of Treasury Notes, in sums of five dollars and upwards, in payment of postage stamps or stamped envelopes.

Treasury notes to be received in payment of postage stamps and stamped envelopes.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That so soon as the Postmaster General shall procure postage stamps and stamped envelopes, that the postmasters throughout the Confederate States be required to receive the Treasury notes of the Confederate States at par, for said stamps and stamped envelopes, in all cases where the amount of stamps or stamped envelopes applied for shall be five dollars or other sums for which the Confederate Treasury notes are issued.

Endorsement by member of Congress of his name not to subject him to increase of postage.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That the endorsement by a member of Congress of his name on newspapers or other printed matter sent by him through the mail, shall not by reason of such endorsement subject him to letter or other increase of postage.

APPROVED August 30, 1861.