

Contract for Atlantic telegraph authorized.

the discretion, and under the direction of the President of the United States, may contract with any competent person, persons, or association, for the aid of the United States, by furnishing not exceeding two ships in laying down a submarine cable, to connect existing telegraphs between the coast of Newfoundland and the coast of Ireland, and for the use of such submarine communication when established by the government of the United States, on such terms and conditions as shall seem to the President just and reasonable, not exceeding seventy thousand dollars per annum until the nett profits of such person, or persons, or association, shall be equal to a dividend of six per cent. per annum, and then not exceeding fifty thousand dollars per annum for twenty-five years: *Provided*, That the government of Great Britain shall, before or at the same time, enter into a like contract for those purposes with the same person, persons, or association, and upon terms of exact equality with those stipulated by the United States: *And provided*, That the tariff of prices for the use of such submarine communication by the public shall be fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States and the government of Great Britain, or its authorized agent: *Provided further*, That the United States and the citizens thereof shall enjoy the use of the said submarine telegraph communication for all time on the same terms and conditions which shall be stipulated in favor of the government of Great Britain, and the subjects thereof, recognising equality of rights among the citizens of the United States in the use of said submarine communication and the lines of telegraph which may at any time connect with the same at its terminus on the coast of New Foundland and in the United States, in any contract so to be entered into by such person, persons, or association, with that government: *Provided further*, That the contract to be made by the British government shall not be different from that already proposed by that government to the New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company except such provisions as may be necessary to secure to each government the transmission of its own messages by its own agents: *And provided further*, That it shall be in the power of Congress, after ten years, to terminate said contract upon giving one year's notice to the parties to such contract.

Provided Great Britain make a like contract.

Tariff for messages.

Equality of rights to be secured.

Proviso as to terms of British contract.

Contract may be terminated after ten years by one year's notice.

APPROVED March 3, 1857.

March 3, 1857.

CHAP. XCVI.—An Act making Appropriations for the Service of the Post-Office Department during the fiscal Year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated for the Post-Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, out of any moneys in the treasury arising from the revenues of the said department, in conformity to the act of the second of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-six:

- Inland transportation. For transportation of the mails, (inland,) seven million six hundred and twenty-two thousand two hundred and forty-seven dollars.
- Postmasters. For compensation of postmasters, two million one hundred and forty thousand dollars.
- Ship and way letters. For ship, steamboat, and way letters, twenty thousand dollars.
- Wrapping paper. For wrapping paper, forty-five thousand dollars.
- Furniture. For office furniture in the post-offices, six thousand dollars.
- Advertising. For advertizing, eighty thousand dollars.
- Mail bags. For mail-bags, fifty-five thousand dollars.
- Blanks, &c. For blanks, and paper for the same, ninety-five thousand dollars.
- Mail-locks, &c. For mail-locks, keys, and stamps, fifteen thousand dollars.
- Special agents. For mail depredations and special agents, sixty-five thousand dollars.
- Clerks. For clerks in the offices of postmasters, seven hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars.

For postage stamps and stamped envelopes, ninety-five thousand dollars.
For miscellaneous items, one hundred and seventy thousand dollars.

Stamps and
Envelopes.
Miscellaneous.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of six hundred and sixty-six thousand eight hundred and eighty-three dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to supply deficiencies in the revenue of the Post-Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven.

Deficiencies for
year ending June
30, 1857.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That if the revenues of the Post-Office Department shall be insufficient to meet the appropriations of this act, the sum of two million five hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and the same is hereby appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to supply deficiencies in the revenue of the Post-Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight.

Deficiencies for
year ending June
30, 1858.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster-General be and he is hereby authorized to establish and put in operation a semi-monthly mail, by sea, from San Francisco, in the State of California, to Olympia, in the Territory of Washington, touching at Humboldt Bay, Trinidad, and Crescent city, in the State of California; Port Orford, Gardiner city, or Umpqua, and Astoria, in the Territory of Oregon; Shoal-water Bay, Fort Townsend, in the Territory of Washington; and at such other points as shall be designated by the Postmaster-General: *Provided*, That the contract for the said service be advertised by the Postmaster-General in pursuance of existing laws, and let to the lowest bidder: *And provided further*, That the whole cost of said service shall not exceed the sum of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars per annum, which sum is hereby appropriated for that purpose, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated: *Provided further*, That the Postmaster-General may, if he shall deem it for the public interest, contract for said service with the lowest bidder, as aforesaid, under the advertised proposals heretofore made for mail service between the points aforesaid.

Mails authorized
between Oregon
and Washington
territories and
California.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster-General be authorized and directed to continue the mail service between Charleston, Key West, and Havana, during the months of August and September in each year for the residue of the present contract term of the southern section by a competent steamer as it is now being performed during ten months of the year; and that to enable him to do so, a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars per annum is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Mail service be-
tween Charleston,
Key West, and
Havana.

Annual appro-
priation.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the fourth section of the act of Congress, approved fifth of August, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department, during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five," be and the same is hereby continued for one year from August fifth, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven.

Pay of Post-
master and his
employees at
Washington,
1854, ch. 270, § 4.
Vol. x. p. 588.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster-General be and he is hereby authorized to reëxamine and adjust all questions arising out of fines imposed upon the contractors for carrying the mails upon the Mississippi River.

Adjustment of
fines for mail ser-
vice on the Mis-
sissippi.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster-General be and is hereby authorized and directed to examine the applications of Vassal D. Pinkham, contractor for carrying the United States mail on route sixty-seven, between Bangor and Calais, in the State of Maine, and of Lewis W. Ludlow, contractor for carrying the United States mails on route one thousand two hundred and forty-two, from Auburn to South Lansing, in the State of New York, to be released from their respective contracts, and in his discretion to release either or both of them therefrom.

Application of
Vassal D. Pink-
ham and Lewis
W. Ludlow may
be examined and
allowed.

Act of 1856, ch. 130, § 8, respecting George H. Giddings declared mandatory Payment to him.

Ante, p. 95.

Contract authorized for carrying the mail from the Mississippi to San Francisco by land.

Same subject.

Preemption right of such contractors.

Trip to be performed within 25 days, and security to be given.

Mail service on Puget's Sound. Lowest bid on record to be accepted.

1845, ch. 69, § 8.

Vol. v. p. 750.

Payment to George Whitman

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the eighth section of the act of the eighteenth of August, eighteen hundred and fifty-six, entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department," &c., be construed as mandatory; and that the Postmaster-General be and he hereby is required to pay to the said Giddings the sum of thirty-three thousand and five hundred dollars per annum in lieu of the contract pay, on mail route number twelve thousand nine hundred, as directed by said section, deducting payments heretofore made.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster-General be, and he is hereby, authorized to contract for the conveyance of the entire letter mail from such point on the Mississippi River, as the contractors may select, to San Francisco, in the State of California, for six years, at a cost not exceeding three hundred thousand dollars per annum for semi-monthly, four hundred and fifty thousand dollars for weekly, or six hundred thousand dollars for semi-weekly service; to be performed semi-monthly, weekly, or semi-weekly, at the option of the Postmaster-General.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That the contract shall require the service to be performed with good four-horse coaches, or spring wagons, suitable for the conveyance of passengers, as well as the safety and security of the mails.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the contractors shall have the right of preemption to three hundred and twenty acres of any land not then disposed of or reserved, at each point necessary for a station, not to be nearer than ten miles from each other; and provided, that no mineral land shall be thus preempted.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the said service shall be performed within twenty-five days for each trip; and that before entering into such contract, the Postmaster-General shall be satisfied of the ability and disposition of the parties *bona fide* and in good faith to perform the said contract, and shall require good and sufficient security for the performance of the same; the service to commence within twelve months after the signing of the contract.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster-General of the United States be and he hereby is authorized and directed to accept the lowest bid offered and now on record, (provided the same shall not exceed twenty-three thousand dollars a year, for weekly services,) to convey the United States mails in good and sufficient steamer or steamers under the advertisement of the Postmaster-General of January nineteen, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, for "proposals for conveying the United States mails on Puget's Sound, Washington Territory," and to contract with the bidders thereof to put into immediate operation the said service on Puget's Sound, Washington Territory, commencing at Olympia, and supplying Steilacoom, Seattle, Port Madison, Port Gamble, Port Ludlow, Port Townsend, Penn's Cove, Bellingham Bay, (Whatcorn,) New Dungeness, and such other places on said route as the Postmaster-General may direct; said service to be paid for out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated: *Provided*, That the said service shall be performed in first class steamboats, under the eighth section of the act approved March third, eighteen hundred and forty-five.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to pay to George Whitman the sum of ten thousand one hundred dollars, being the amount of a draft issued in his favor by the Postmaster-General on the eleventh of August, eighteen hundred and thirty-eight upon the postmaster at New Orleans in payment of services rendered by said Whitman as mail contractor, less two thousand dollars paid thereon, which draft was not satisfied by the drawer.

APPROVED, March 3, 1857.