

March 9, 1868. CHAP. XXII.—*An Act in Relation to the Promulgation of the Laws of the United States.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That from and after the passage of this act it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to furnish the congressional printer with a correct copy of every act and joint resolution as soon as possible after its approval by the President of the United States, or after it shall have become a law in accordance with the Constitution without such approval. And so much of section seven of the act entitled "An act to expedite and regulate the printing of the public documents, and for other purposes," approved June twenty-five, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, as requires the secretary of the Senate to furnish such copy, is hereby repealed.

Duty of Secretary of State in furnishing congressional printer with copy of acts and resolutions.

Repeal of 1864, ch. 165, § 7. Vol. xiii. p. 165.

Congressional printer to do what.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the congressional printer, on receipt of the copy provided for in the foregoing section, shall in every case immediately cause an accurate printed copy of the act or resolution, as it shall have been furnished to him, to be prepared and sent in duplicate to the Secretary of State for revision, and on return of one of the revised duplicates the congressional printer shall at once have the marked corrections made, should there be any, and cause to be printed and sent to the Department of State fifty copies, and also cause to be printed separately the usual number for the use of the two Houses of Congress: *Provided,* That on request of the Secretary of State the congressional printer shall furnish to the Department of State any additional number of copies of any act or resolution, not exceeding five hundred copies.

Number of copies.

Additional copies.

List of newspapers authorized to publish laws, to be furnished printer, who shall send to them copy of public laws and resolutions.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to transmit to the congressional printer, at the beginning of each session of Congress, and thereafter when necessary, a list of all newspapers authorized by law to publish the laws of the United States, with their respective post-offices, so far as the same shall have been communicated to him by the clerk of the House of Representatives; and it shall be the duty of the congressional printer, on the printing of each act or resolution, excepting those which are of a private character, and which shall be so designated by the Secretary of State, to transmit a copy thereof to each of the editors of such newspapers for prompt publication; and the number of copies of the public acts and resolutions requisite for this purpose are hereby authorized and required to be printed; and all letters and documents to and from the congressional printer, relating to the duties and business of his office, shall be transmitted by mail, free of postage, under such regulations as may be established by the Postmaster-General.

Secretary of State to designate such laws as are of a private character.

Letters, &c. to be free of postage.

Provisions of this act to apply to treaties and postal conventions. 1851, ch. 20, § 2. Vol. ix. p. 589. 1851, ch. 48, § 2. Vol. ix. p. 645. Post, p. 347.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That all the provisions of this act which apply to public acts and resolutions shall in like manner apply to treaties between the government of the United States and foreign governments, after they shall have been duly ratified and proclaimed by the President of the United States; and shall also apply to postal conventions made between the Postmaster-General, by and with [the] advice and consent of the President, on the part of the United States, and equivalent officers of foreign governments on the part of their respective countries, under the authority of the second section of the act entitled "An act to reduce and modify the rates of postage in the United States, and for other purposes," approved March three, eighteen hundred and fifty-one: *Provided,* That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster-General to transmit a copy of each of said conventions to the Secretary of State, for this purpose, and that the printed copy of said conventions shall be revised by the Post-Office Department.

Proviso as to postal conventions.

Repeal of inconsistent laws.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That all laws and parts of laws requiring the Secretary of State to send the laws first directly to news-

papers for publication, as well as all laws and parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

APPROVED, March 9, 1868.

CHAP. XXIV. — *An Act for the temporary Relief of destitute People in the District of Columbia.* March 10, 1868.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the sum of fifteen thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the temporary relief of the destitute population in the District of Columbia, to be expended under the supervision and direction of the commissioner of refugees, freedmen, and abandoned lands: *Provided,* That as far as *practical* [practicable] said sum shall be expended in the employment of persons upon the public grounds and works in the District of Columbia for which appropriations have been heretofore made by Congress, such laborers to be under the direction of the officer acting as commissioner of public buildings and grounds.

Appropriation for relief of the destitute in the District of Columbia;  
how to be expended.  
1869, ch. 81.  
Post, p. 269.

APPROVED, March 10, 1868.

CHAP. XXV. — *An Act to amend the Act passed March twenty-third, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, entitled "An Act supplementary to 'An Act to provide for the more efficient Government of the rebel States,' passed March second, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, and to facilitate their Restoration."* March 11, 1868.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That hereafter any election authorized by the act passed March twenty-three, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, entitled "An act supplementary to 'An act to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States,' passed March two, [second,] eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, and to facilitate their restoration," shall be decided by a majority of the votes actually cast; and at the election in which the question of the adoption or rejection of any constitution is submitted, any person duly registered in the State may vote in the election district where he offers to vote when he has resided therein for ten days next preceding such election, upon presentation of his certificate of registration, his affidavit, or other satisfactory evidence, under such regulations as the district commanders may prescribe.

1867, ch. 6.  
Ante, p. 2.  
Vol. xiv. p. 428.

Elections in the States lately in rebellion to be determined by a majority of the votes cast.

Who may vote.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the constitutional convention of any of the States mentioned in the acts to which this is amendatory may provide that at the time of voting upon the ratification of the constitution the registered voters may vote also for members of the House of Representatives of the United States, and for all elective officers provided for by the said constitution; and the same election officers who shall make the return of the votes cast on the ratification or rejection of the constitution, shall enumerate and certify the votes cast for members of Congress.

Provision may be made for voting for representatives to Congress and elective officers under the constitution, at time of voting upon ratification of constitution.

SCHUYLER COLFAX,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*  
B. F. WADE,  
*President of the Senate pro tempore.*

Indorsed by the President: "Received February 28, 1868."

[NOTE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. — The foregoing act having been presented to the President of the United States for his approval, and not having been returned by him to the House of Congress in which it originated within the time prescribed by the Constitution of the United States, has become a law without his approval.]