

Messilla land-district, the office of which shall be located at such place in said district as the President of the United States may direct, which may be changed from time to time as the public interest may require. Location of land-office.

SEC. 2. That the President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a register and receiver of public moneys for said district, and said officers shall reside in the place where said land-office is located, and they shall have the same powers, perform the same duties, and receive the same emoluments as are or may be prescribed by law in relation to land offices of the United States in other Territories. Register and receiver.

Approved, March 3, 1874.

CHAP. 44.—An act authorizing the chief clerk of the War Department to sign requisitions on the Treasury during the temporary absence of the Secretary of War. March 4, 1874.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when, from illness or other cause, the Secretary of War is temporarily absent from the War Department, he may authorize the chief clerk of the Department to sign requisitions upon the Treasury Department, and other papers requiring the signature of said Secretary; the same, when signed by the chief clerk during such temporary absence, to be of the same force and effect as if signed by the Secretary of War himself. Secretary of War may authorize chief clerk to sign requisitions, &c., in his absence.

Approved, March 4, 1874.

CHAP. 45.—An act to render available a certain unexpended balance of appropriation. March 4, 1874.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the unexpended balance of the appropriation for the construction of the United States branch-mint building at San Francisco, California, now remaining on the books of the Treasury Department to the credit of the appropriation for that work, and unavailable under the provisions of the fifth, sixth, and seventh sections of the act of July twelfth, eighteen hundred and seventy, is hereby re-appropriated and made available from and after the passage of this act. Re-appropriation of unexpended balance for branch-mint building at San Francisco. 1870, ch. 251, §§ 5, 6, 7, vol. xvi, p. 251.

Approved, March 4, 1874.

CHAP. 46.—An act to amend the fifteenth section of an act approved June eighth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, entitled "An act to revise, consolidate, and amend the statutes relating to the Post-Office Department." March 5, 1874.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That section fifteen of the act "to revise, consolidate and amend the statutes relating to the Post Office Department," approved June eighth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, be amended to read as follows: Amendment of 1872, chap. 335, § 15, vol. xvii, p. 287.

"SEC. 15. That before entering upon the duties, and before they shall receive any salary, the Postmaster General, and all persons employed in the postal service, shall respectively take and subscribe before some magistrate or other competent officer authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the United States, or of any State or Territory, the following oath or affirmation: Oath for persons in the postal service.

"I, A. B. do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be,) that I will faithfully perform all the duties required of me and abstain from everything forbidden by the laws in relation to the establishment of post-offices and post-roads within the United States; and that I will honestly and truly account for and pay over any money belonging to Form of oath.

the said United States which may come into my possession or control; and I also further swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States; so help me God.' And this oath or affirmation may be taken before any officer civil or military holding a commission under the United States, and such officer is hereby authorized to administer and certify such oath or affirmation."

Approved, March 5, 1874.

Before whom may
be taken.

March 5, 1874.

CHAP. 47.—An act to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to discontinue the use of the cutter "Relief" as a revenue cutter, and use said vessel for a boarding station in Mobile Bay.

Revenue cutter "Relief" to be used as a boarding station in Mobile Bay.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and is hereby, authorized to discontinue the use of the "Relief" as a revenue cutter, and to station said vessel in Mobile Bay for use as a boarding station for the customs officers of the district of Mobile, under such rules, regulations, and conditions as the Secretary of the Treasury may from time to time prescribe.

Approved, March 5, 1874.

March 7, 1874.

CHAP. 50.—An act making an appropriation to pay the operators of the Government telegraph connecting the Departments with the two houses of Congress.

Payment of telegraph operators at Capitol.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the sum of fourteen hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to enable the two houses of Congress to pay the telegraph operators employed under the provisions of an act entitled "An act in relation to the lines of telegraph connecting the Capitol with the various Departments of the Government," approved February fourth, eighteen hundred and seventy-four. And of the sum herein appropriated, seven hundred dollars shall be added to the contingent fund of the Senate, and seven hundred dollars shall be added to the contingent fund of the House, and the clerks of the respective houses shall pay the said operators in accordance with law: *Provided,* That said lines of telegraph shall be for the use only of Senators, Members of Congress, Judges of the United States courts, and officers of Congress and of the Executive Departments, and solely on public business.

Ante, ch. 22, p. 14.

Use of telegraph restricted.

Approved, March 7, 1874.

March 7, 1874.

CHAP. 51.—An act extending the time for the completion of the Green Bay and Sturgeon Bay and Lake Michigan Ship-Canal, in the State of Wisconsin.

Green Bay, &c., Ship-Canal.

Time for completion extended.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the time for the completion of the Green Bay and Sturgeon Bay and Lake Michigan Ship-Canal be, and the same is hereby, extended to the tenth day of April, eighteen hundred and seventy-six.

Approved, March 7, 1874.