

&c. for examination of witnesses.

Adjudications of the commissioner to be entered in a book by the clerk.

Payments to be made upon certified copies of judgments, &c.

Claims barred unless presented within two years.

stated to reside, accompanied by interrogatories to be propounded to such witnesses, which said commission, when executed, shall be returned, together with the examinations to be taken in virtue thereof, by mail, free of postage, to the office of the said commissioner.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That, in all adjudications of the said commissioner upon the claims above-mentioned, whether such judgment be in favour of, or adverse to, the claim of the applicant, the same shall be entered by his clerk in a book to be provided for that purpose: And when such judgment shall be in favour of such claim, shall entitle the claimant, or his legal representative, upon the production of a copy of such judgment, duly certified by the clerk of said commissioner, to payment of the amount thereof at the treasury of the United States.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That no claim authorized by this act shall be allowed or paid, unless the same shall be exhibited within two years from the passing hereof.

APPROVED, April 9, 1816.

STATUTE I.

April 9, 1816.

CHAP. XLI.—*An Act to repeal the act, entitled "An act to provide additional revenues for defraying the expenses of government and maintaining the public credit, by laying duties on household furniture and on gold and silver watches.*

So much of the act of Jan. 18, 1815, as lays duties on household furniture, and on watches, &c. repealed.

Act of Jan. 18, 1815, ch. 23.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That so much of the act, entitled "An act to provide additional revenue for defraying the expenses of government and maintaining the public credit, by laying duties on household furniture and on gold and silver watches," as lays a duty on household furniture, and on watches kept for use, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, and in succeeding years, shall be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

APPROVED, April 9, 1816.

STATUTE I.

April 9, 1816.

[Repealed.]

1810, ch. 37.

CHAP. XLIII.—*An Act in addition to an act to regulate the Post-office establishment.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That, from and after the first day of May next, the following rates of postage be charged upon all letters and packets, (excepting such as are now excepted by law,) conveyed by the posts of the United States, viz:

Rates of postage after the 1st May, 1816.

For every letter composed of a single sheet of paper, conveyed not exceeding thirty miles, six cents; over thirty and not exceeding eighty, ten cents; over eighty and not exceeding one hundred and fifty, twelve and a half cents; over one hundred and fifty and not exceeding four hundred, eighteen and a half cents; over four hundred miles, twenty-five cents; and for every double letter, or letter composed of two pieces of paper, double those rates; and for every triple letter, or one composed of three pieces of paper, triple those rates; and for every packet composed of four or more pieces of paper, or one or more other articles, and weighing one ounce avoirdupois, quadruple those rates: and in that proportion for all greater weights: *Provided*, That no packet of letters conveyed by the water mails shall be charged with more than quadruple postage, unless the same shall contain more than four distinct letters.

Proviso.

Weight of packets restricted: evidence of lawful postage, &c.

No postmaster shall be obliged to receive, to be conveyed by the mail, any packet which shall weigh more than three pounds; and the postage marked on any letter or packet, and charged in the post bill which may accompany the same, shall be conclusive evidence, in favour of the postmaster who delivers the same, of the lawful postage thereon, unless such

letter or packet shall be opened in presence of the postmaster or his clerk.

Every four folio pages, or eight quarto pages, or sixteen octavo pages, of a pamphlet or magazine, shall be considered a sheet, and the surplus pages of any pamphlet or magazine shall also be considered a sheet; and the journals of the legislatures of the several states, not being stitched or bound, shall be liable to the same postage as pamphlets. Any memorandum which shall be written on a newspaper, or other printed paper, and transmitted by mail, shall be charged letter postage; and any person who shall deposit such memorandum in any office for the purpose of defrauding the revenue, shall forfeit, for every such offence, the sum of five dollars.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster General be, and is hereby, authorized to allow to each postmaster such commission on the postages by him collected, as shall be adequate to his services: *Provided*, That his commission shall not exceed the following several rates on the amount received in one quarter; that is to say:

On a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, thirty per cent.

On any sum over and above the first hundred dollars, and not exceeding four hundred dollars, twenty-five per cent.

On any sum over and above the first four hundred dollars, and not exceeding two thousand four hundred dollars, twenty per cent.

On any sum over and above the first two thousand four hundred dollars, eight per cent.

Except to the postmasters who may be employed in receiving and despatching foreign mails, whose compensation may be augmented not exceeding twenty-five dollars in one quarter; and excepting to the postmasters at offices where the mail is regularly to arrive between the hours of nine o'clock at night and five o'clock in the morning, whose commission, on the first hundred dollars collected in one quarter, may be increased to a sum not exceeding fifty per cent.

The Postmaster General may allow to the postmasters, respectively, a commission of fifty per cent. on the moneys arising from the postage of newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets; and to the postmaster whose compensation shall not exceed five hundred dollars in one quarter, two cents for every free letter delivered out of the office, excepting such as are for the postmaster himself; and each postmaster who shall be required to keep a register of the arrival and departure of the mails, shall be allowed ten cents for each monthly return which he makes thereof to the general post-office.

The Postmaster General may allow to the postmaster at New Orleans, at the rate of eight hundred dollars, and to the postmaster at Warrenton, in North Carolina, at the rate of two hundred dollars, and to the postmaster at Wheeling, in Virginia, at the rate of two hundred dollars a year, in addition to their ordinary commissions. The Postmaster General is hereby authorized to allow to the postmaster at the city of Washington, in addition to the allowance made by this act for postage collected, and for free letters received by him for delivery, a commission of five per centum on the amount of mails distributed at his office: *Provided, nevertheless*, That the whole annual emoluments of the said postmaster, including the extra compensation heretofore allowed to him by law, shall always be subject to the restriction imposed by the fortieth section of the act of Congress approved the thirtieth of April, one thousand eight hundred and ten, to which this act is in addition.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That letters and packets to and from any member of the Senate, or member or delegate of the House of Representatives of the United States, the secretary of the Senate, and clerk of the House of Representatives, shall be conveyed free of postage, for thirty days previous to each session of Congress, and for thirty

Pamphlets,
magazines, &c.

Memoranda written
on newspapers,
&c. to be
charged letter
postage, &c.

The Postmaster
General to
allow commis-
sions to post-
masters, &c.

Act of April
30, 1810, ch.
37, sec. 40.

Members of
Congress, &c.,
may frank let-
ters, &c. for
thirty days be-

fore and after a session, &c.

Proviso: as to weight of letters, &c.

Certain sections of former acts repealed.

Act of April 30, 1810, ch. 37.

Act of February 27, 1815, ch. 65.

This act in force from 31st March, 1816.

days after the termination thereof: *Provided always*, That no letter or packet shall exceed two ounces in weight, and in case of excess of weight, that excess alone shall be paid for.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the eleventh and twenty-eighth sections of the act, entitled "An act regulating the post-office establishment," approved April thirtieth, one thousand eight hundred and ten, and the first and second sections of the act, entitled "An act in addition to the act regulating the post-office establishment," approved February twenty-seventh, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, and the fourth and fifth sections of the same, except such parts as relate to steamboats, their masters, or managers, and persons employed on board the same, be, and the same are hereby repealed.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall take effect from and after the thirty-first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.

APPROVED, April 9, 1816.

STATUTE I.

April 10, 1816.

[Expired.]

Act of March 3, 1819, ch. 73.

A bank of the United States, with a capital of 35,000,000 dollars, &c.

CHAP. XLIV.—*An Act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States. (a)*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That a bank of the United States of America shall be established, with a capital of thirty-five millions of dollars, divided into three hundred and fifty thousand shares, of one hundred dollars each share. Seventy thousand shares, amounting to the sum of seven millions of dollars, part of the capital of the said bank, shall be subscribed and paid for by the United States, in the manner hereinafter specified; and two hundred and eighty thousand shares, amounting to the sum of twenty-eight millions of dollars, shall be subscribed and paid for by individuals, companies, or corporations, in the manner hereinafter specified.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That subscriptions for the sum of twenty-eight millions of dollars, towards constituting the capital of the said bank, shall be opened on the first Monday in July next, at the following places: that is to say, at Portland, in the District of Maine; at Portsmouth, in the state of New Hampshire; at Boston, in the state of Massachusetts; at Providence, in the state of Rhode Island; at Middletown, in the state of Connecticut; at Burlington, in the state of Vermont; at New York, in the state of New York; at New Brunswick, in the state of New Jersey; at Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania; at Wilmington, in the state of Delaware; at Baltimore, in the state of Maryland; at Richmond, in the state of Virginia; at Lexington, in the state of Kentucky; at Cincinnati, in the state of Ohio; at Raleigh, in the state of North Carolina; at Nashville, in the state of Tennessee; at Charleston, in the state of South Carolina; at Augusta, in the state of Georgia; at New Orleans, in the state of Louisiana; and at Washington, in the district of Columbia. And the said subscriptions shall be opened under the superintendence of five commissioners at Philadelphia, and of three commissioners at each of the other places aforesaid, to be appointed by the President of the United States, who is hereby authorized to make such appointments, and shall continue open every day, from the time of opening the same, between the hours of ten o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon, for the term of twenty days, exclusive of Sundays, when the same shall be closed, and immediately thereafter the commissioners, or any two of them, at the respective

Places, &c. for receiving subscriptions.

(a) For the act incorporating the first Bank of the United States, see vol. i. 191. Notes of decisions on the acts incorporating the Bank of the United States, vol. i. 192.