

reasonable and fair compensation for the service to be performed, it shall be lawful for him to separate the letter mail from the residue of the mail, and to contract, either with or without advertising, for conveying the letter mail over such route, by horse express or otherwise, at the greatest speed that can reasonably be obtained; and also to contract for carrying over such route the residue of the mail, in wagons or otherwise, at a slower rate of speed: *Provided*, That if one-half of the service, on any railroad, is required to be performed in the night season, it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to pay twenty-five per cent. in addition to the aforesaid maximum rates of allowance: *And provided further*, That if it shall be found necessary to convey over any railroad route more than two mails daily, it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to pay such additional compensation as he may think just and reasonable, having reference to the service performed and the maximum rate of allowance established by this act.

Proviso.

SEC. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That all causes of action arising under this act may be sued, and all offenders against this act may be prosecuted, before any circuit or district court of the United States, or the District of Columbia, or of the Territories of the United States.

Courts for trial of offenders against this act.

SEC. 21. *And be it further enacted*, That for the purpose of guarding against the possibility of any embarrassment in the operations of the Post Office Department consequent upon any deficiency of the revenues of said department which may be occasioned by the reduction of the rates of postage by this act made, there be, and hereby is, appropriated the sum of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and to be placed to the credit of the Post Office Department in the Treasury of the United States, to be applied, under the direction of the Postmaster General, to supply any deficiency in the regular revenues from postage, in the same manner as the revenues of said department are now by law applied.

Appropriation to guard against a deficiency in the revenues of the post-office department.

SEC. 22. *And be it further enacted*, That in case the amount of postages collected from the rates of postage prescribed by this act, with the annual appropriation from the treasury of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars herein granted, shall prove insufficient to defray the expense of the mail service throughout the United States to an extent equal to what is now enjoyed by the public, and also the expense of extending and enlarging the same in due proportion with the increase and expansion of the population, particularly in the new States and Territories, the deficiency that may so arise shall be paid out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated: *Provided*, That the amount of expenditure for the Post Office Department shall not in the entire aggregate, exclusive of salaries of officers, clerks, and messengers, of the General Post Office, and the contingent fund of the same, exceed the annual amount of four million five hundred thousand dollars.

Additional appropriation for deficiencies in revenues of the post office.

Proviso.

SEC. 23. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to repeal the laws heretofore enacted, granting the franking privilege to the President of the United States when in office, and to all ex-Presidents, and to the widows of the former Presidents Madison and Harrison.

Franking privilege continued to President and others.

APPROVED, March 3, 1845.

STATUTE II.

CHAP. XLIV. — *An Act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department, for the year ending thirtieth June, eighteen hundred and forty-six.*

March 3, 1845.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums of money be, and the same are hereby appropriated, for the service

Appropriations from revenues of Post Office Department.

of the Post Office Department for the year ending on the thirtieth June, eighteen hundred and forty-six, out of any moneys in the Treasury arising from the revenues of the said department, in conformity to the act of second July, eighteen hundred and thirty-six, viz :

Transportation.	For transportation of the mail, three million and fifty thousand dollars;
Postmasters.	For compensation to postmasters, nine hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars;
Letters.	For ship, steamboat, and way letters, twelve thousand dollars;
Wrapping paper.	For wrapping paper, sixteen thousand dollars;
Office furniture.	For office furniture, (for the offices of postmasters,) four thousand dollars;
Advertising.	For advertising, thirty thousand dollars;
Mail bags.	For mail bags, sixteen thousand dollars;
Blanks.	For blanks, twenty-two thousand dollars;
Mail locks.	For mail locks, keys, and stamps, six thousand dollars;
Depredations, &c.	For mail depredations and special agents, thirty thousand dollars:
Pay and allowances to special agents fixed.	<i>Provided, however,</i> That no greater sum shall be paid to any mail agent of any description than one thousand dollars per annum, and no greater sum for all his travelling and incidental expenses, than at the rate of two dollars for each day he shall be actually employed in the capacity of mail agent;
Clerks.	For clerks for offices, (for the offices of postmasters,) two hundred thousand dollars;
Miscellaneous.	For miscellaneous, fifty-five thousand dollars.

APPROVED, March 3, 1845.

STATUTE II.

March 3, 1845.

Act of March 3, 1843, ch. 92.

Value of florin of Austria fixed. 1846, ch. 23.

CHAP. XLV.—*An Act supplementary to an act entitled "An act to fix the value of certain foreign moneys of account in computations at the custom-houses."*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in all computations of the value of foreign moneys of account at the custom-houses of the United States, the florin of Austria shall be deemed and taken to be at the value of forty-eight cents; and all former laws inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

APPROVED, March 3, 1845.

STATUTE II.

March 3, 1845.

1848, ch. 122.

Certain surveys confirmed as actually made.

Surveyor General to certify the return and plat of survey to the register and receiver for the Augusta district

Register and receiver to give a certificate, &c.

CHAP. XLVI.—*An Act to confirm the survey and location of claims for lands in the State of Mississippi, east of the Pearl river, and south of thirty-first degree of north latitude.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all surveys and plats of confirmed claims and settlement rights for lands situate in the State of Mississippi, east of Pearl river, and south of thirty-first degree of north latitude, which had been made and returned to the surveyor general's office south of Tennessee on or before the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, shall be, and are hereby, confirmed, as actually surveyed on the ground; and the said surveyor general is hereby authorized and directed, on the request of any party interested in any such claim, to certify the return and plat of any such actual survey, so remaining in his office, to the register and receiver for lands in the Augusta district, in said State, who are hereby directed to receive and regard said surveys, plats, and location of the claims they represent, as correctly made; and the said register and receiver shall thereupon issue, in the name of the confirmer of the claim a patent certificate for each claim; which certificate, being first duly recorded in the said register's office, shall be delivered to such person as is entitled to repre-