

From Oak Grove, via Laurel and Elhah, in Dodge county, to Columbus, in Columbia county.

Oregon.

*Oregon.* — From Oregon City, via Fort Vancouver and Fort Nesqually, to the mouth of Admiralty Inlet.

From Oregon City, up the Willamette Valley, to the Kalamet River, in the direction of San Frisco.

When said routes shall go into operation.

Proviso.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the above routes shall go into operation on the first day of July, eighteen hundred and forty-seven, or sooner, should the funds of the department justify the same: *Provided,* That as soon as a responsible contractor shall offer to transport the mails over any portion of the routes included in this bill, for the revenues arising therefrom respectively, the Postmaster-General shall have the power forthwith to put them under contract.

Mails from New Orleans to Tampico.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster-General be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed to cause a mail to be transported once a week, and oftener, if he shall think the public interest requires it, from New Orleans, via Galveston, Passo Callo, Brasos de St. Iago, to Tampico, with return mails, the service to be performed by contract, or by the use of the public steamers now in the service of the War Department in the Gulf of Mexico, with the consent of the head of that department; and for this service the sum of thirty thousand dollars is hereby appropriated.

Letters, &c., to persons belonging to the army in Mexico to be free.

Proviso.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That all letters, newspapers, and other packets, not exceeding in weight one ounce, directed to any officer, musician, or private of the army of the United States in Mexico, or at any post or place on the frontier of the United States, bordering on Mexico, shall be conveyed in the mail free of postage: *Provided,* That all letters or other packets directed to any person in the army shall contain, as a part of their direction, the words, "belonging to the army."

The two preceding sections to continue in force during the present war.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the two preceding sections shall continue in force during the present war, and for three months after the same may be terminated, and no longer.

Mail from Charleston to Chagres, and from Panama to Astoria.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster-General be, and he is hereby, authorized to contract for transporting a mail from Charleston, South Carolina, to Chagres, touching at St. Augustine and Key West, and also at Havana, in the Island of Cuba, if deemed expedient, and across the isthmus to Panama, and from thence to Astoria, or the mouth of the Columbia River, touching at Monterey, St. Francisco, and such other places on the coast as the Postmaster-General may direct; the mail to be conveyed from Charleston to Chagres, and from Panama to Astoria, in steamships, and to be transported each way once every two months, or oftener, as the public interest may require: *Provided,* That the expenditure for said service shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars per annum.

Expense not to exceed \$100,000 a year.

Post-Office to be established at Astoria.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster-General be, and he is hereby, authorized to establish a post-office and appoint a deputy postmaster at Astoria, and such other places on the coast of the Pacific, within the territory of the United States, as the public interest may require; that all letters conveyed to or from Chagres shall be charged with twenty cents postage: and all letters conveyed to or from Havana shall be subject to twelve and a half cents postage; and letters carried to or from Panama shall pay a postage of thirty cents, and letters to or from Astoria, or any other place on the Pacific coast, within the territory of the United States, shall pay forty cents postage.

Rate of postage.

Contracts to provide for the purchase of the steamships em-

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That any contract made in pursuance of this act shall provide for the purchase, by the United States, of the steamships to be employed in conveying the mail, at its

option, agreeably to the provisions of an act entitled "An Act to provide for the Transportation of the Mail between the United States and foreign Countries, and for other Purposes," approved the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five: *Provided*, That the departure and return of said mail may, at the discretion of the Postmaster-General, be either from Charleston, New York, Savannah, Pensacola, or New Orleans, as may be deemed most consistent with the public interest.

ployed in conveying mails.  
1845, ch. 69.  
Proviso.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of thirty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated for the service herein provided for, to be paid from the general appropriation for mail transportation.

§30,000 appropriated.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster-General be authorized and directed, when in his judgment the public interest or convenience may require it, to establish one or more branch post offices, to facilitate the operation of the post-office, in any city or place which, in the opinion of the Postmaster-General, may require such additional accommodation for the convenience of the inhabitants; and it shall be the duty of the Postmaster-General to prescribe the rules and regulations for the branch post-offices which may be established by virtue of this act; and no additional postage shall be charged for the receipt or delivery of any letter or packet at such branch post-office.

Branch post-offices.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That, to facilitate the transportation of letters in the mail, the Postmaster-General be authorized to prepare postage stamps, which, when attached to any letter or packet, shall be evidence of the payment of the postage chargeable on such letter; which said stamps the Postmaster-General may deliver to any deputy postmaster who may apply for the same, the deputy postmaster paying or becoming accountable for the amount of the stamps so received by him; and if any of said stamps shall not be used, but be returned to the General Post-Office, the amount so returned shall be credited to such deputy postmaster; and such deputy postmaster may sell or dispose of any stamps so received by him, to any person who may wish to use the same; but it shall not be lawful for any deputy postmaster to prepare, use, or dispose of any postage stamps not authorized by and received from the Postmaster-General; and any person who shall falsely and fraudulently make, utter, or forge any postage stamp, with the intent to defraud the Post-Office Department, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and on conviction shall be subject to the same punishment as is provided in the twenty-first section of the act approved the third day of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-five, entitled "An Act to reduce into one the several Acts establishing and regulating the Post-Office Department.

Postage stamps.

Penalty for forging &c. such stamps.

1825, ch. 64.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the sixth section of the act to which this is supplementary as requires the Postmaster-General to cause accounts of the postage that would be chargeable by the rates prescribed in said act upon all matter passing free through the mail, and that the same shall be paid to the Post-Office Department from the contingent funds of the two Houses of Congress, and of the other departments of the government for which such mail service may have been performed, be, and the same is hereby, repealed; and that in lieu of such payment, and in compensation for such mail services as may be performed for the several departments of the government, there shall be paid to the Post-Office Department, from the treasury, for each year's service, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, which is hereby appropriated for that purpose, out of any unappropriated money in the treasury.

Repeal of so much of the 6th sec. of act 3d March 1845, ch. 43, as requires accounts to be kept of the postages of the pub. depts. &c.

§200,000 appropriated in lieu thereof.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall not be lawful to deposit in any post-office, to be conveyed in the mail, two or more

Penalty for depositing in any post-office two

or more letters to different persons under the same envelope.

**Proviso.**

All newspapers, with certain exceptions, handbills, &c. to be subject to postage.

Contractors or mail carriers may transport papers out of the mails, &c.

What publications shall be considered as public documents, and may be franked as such.

Compensation of postmasters. Receipts from boxes.

Repeal of so much of the act of May 3, 1845, ch. 43, as is inconsistent herewith.

letters directed to different persons enclosed in the same envelope or packet; and every person so offending shall forfeit the sum of ten dollars, to be recovered by action *qui tam*, one half for the use of the informer, and the other half for the use of the Post-Office Department: *Provided*, That this prohibition shall not apply to any letter or packet directed to any foreign country; and all newspapers conveyed in the mail shall be subject to postage, except those sent by way of exchange between the publishers of newspapers, and except those franked by persons enjoying the franking privilege; and newspapers not sent from the office of publication, and all handbills or circulars, printed or lithographed, not exceeding one sheet, shall be subject to three cents postage each, to be paid when deposited in any post-office to be conveyed in the mail; and it shall be lawful for any contractor or mail carrier to transport newspapers out of the mail for sale or distribution to subscribers, and the Postmaster-General shall have authority to pay or cause to be paid a sum, not exceeding two cents each, for all letters or packets conveyed in any vessel or steamboat not employed in carrying the mail from one post or place to any other post or place in the United States, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster-General may prescribe; and such publications or books as have been or may be published, procured, or purchased by order of either House of Congress, or a joint resolution of the two Houses, shall be considered as public documents, and entitled to be franked as such; and it shall not be lawful to make any allowance or compensation to deputy postmasters in addition to their commissions as authorized by law, excepting the receipts from boxes, of which all beyond two thousand dollars shall be applied in defraying the expenses of their offices, and to be accounted for in the same manner as they are required to account for their commissions, and excepting the special allowance made by law to the postmasters at Washington city and New Orleans.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the act approved the third day of March, A. D. eighteen hundred and forty-five, entitled "An Act to reduce the Rates of Postage, to limit the Use, and correct the Abuse, of the Franking Privilege, and for the Prevention of Frauds on the Post-Office Department," and of all other acts relating to the Post-Office Department, or the service of that department, as is inconsistent with this act, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

APPROVED, March 3, 1847.

March 3, 1847.  
1845, ch. 25.

CHAP. LXIV.—*An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to amend 'An Act to carry into Effect in the States of Alabama and Mississippi the existing Compacts with those States with Regard to the five per cent. Fund and the School Reservations.'"*

Provisions of the act of February 26, 1845, extended so as to enable the State of Alabama to locate a certain quantity of land.  
1845, ch. 25.  
1849, ch. 72.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the provisions of "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to carry into Effect in the States of Alabama and Mississippi the existing Compacts with those States with Regard to the five per cent. Fund and the School Reservations,'" approved February twenty-six, eighteen hundred and forty-five, be, and the same are hereby, extended so as to enable the State of Alabama to locate a quantity of land in any of the States or Territories equal to the quantity now due to the inhabitants of the township within the Chickasaw cession within said State: *Provided*, That they shall be made subject to the restrictions and limitations of the act the title of which has been cited, as far as the same may be applicable.

**Proviso.**

APPROVED, March 3, 1847.