

For repairs of Fort Niagara, New York, six thousand dollars;  
 For construction and repairs of quarters and barracks at Fort Columbus, New York harbor, twenty-six thousand five hundred dollars;

For construction of an additional magazine for batteries Hudson and Morton, Staten Island, New York, five thousand dollars;

For repairs of Fort Madison, Annapolis harbor, Maryland, ten thousand six hundred dollars;

For repairs of Fort Moultrie, Charleston harbor, South Carolina, five thousand dollars;

For repairs of Fort Jackson, Savannah River, Georgia, twenty thousand dollars;

For repairs of Fort Macomb, Chef Menteur Pass, Louisiana, nine thousand five hundred dollars;

For the extension of battery at Fort Jackson, Mississippi River, ten thousand dollars;

For repairs of Fort St. Philip, Mississippi River, Louisiana, thirty-five thousand dollars;

For contingent expenses of the fortifications not herein mentioned, the preservation of sites, the protection of titles, and repairs of sudden damages to forts, twenty thousand dollars. Contingent.

APPROVED, March 3, 1855.

CHAP. CLXXII. — *An Act for the Construction of certain Military Roads in the Territory of Kansas.* March 3, 1855.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the sum of fifty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the construction of a road from Fort Riley to such point on the Arkansas River as may, in the opinion of the Secretary of War, be most expedient for military purposes.

Appropriations  
for roads.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the further sum of fifty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the construction of a road from Fort Riley to Bridger's Pass, in the Rocky Mountains. The said sums to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, in pursuance of contracts to be made by him.

APPROVED, March 3, 1855.

CHAP. CLXXIII. — *An Act further to amend the Act entitled "An Act to reduce and modify the Rates of Postages in the United States, and for other Purposes," passed March third, eighteen hundred and fifty-one.* March 3, 1855.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That in lieu of the rates of postage now established by law, there shall be charged the following rates, to wit: —

Rates of postage.

For every single letter in manuscript, or paper of any kind in which information shall be asked for or communicated in writing, or by marks or signs, conveyed in the mail for any distance between places in the United States not exceeding three thousand miles, three cents; and for any distance exceeding three thousand miles, ten cents.

And for a double letter there shall be charged double the rate above specified; and for a treble letter, treble those rates; and for a quadruple letter, quadruple those rates; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter; and every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, shall be charged with an additional single postage; and upon all letters passing through or in the mail of the United States, excepting such as

All postage but foreign to be prepaid.

are to or from a foreign country, the postages as above specified shall be prepaid, except upon letters and packages addressed to officers of the government on official business, which shall be so marked on the envelope.

Stamps may be put on prepaid letters.

And from and after the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-six, the Postmaster-General may require postmasters to place postage stamps upon all prepaid letters upon which such stamps may not have been placed by the writers.

Drop-letters.

And all drop-letters, or letters placed in any post-office not for transmission through the mail, but for delivery only, shall be charged with postage at the rate of one cent each; and all letters which shall hereafter be advertised as remaining over, or uncalled for, in any post-office, shall be charged with one cent each, in addition to the regular postage, both to be accounted for as other postages now are.

Additional charge on advertised letters.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall not be lawful for any postmaster or other person to sell any postage stamp or stamped envelope for any larger sum than that indicated upon the face of such postage stamp or for a larger sum than that charged therefor by the Post-Office Department; and any person who shall violate this provision shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be fined in any sum not less than ten, nor more than five hundred dollars.

Penalty for selling postage stamps or envelopes at an advanced rate.

When this act shall take effect.

This act to take effect and be in force from and after the commencement of the next fiscal quarter after its passage. *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to alter the laws in relation to the franking privilege.

Franking privileges not affected.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That for the greater security of valuable letters posted for transmission in the mails of the United States, the Postmaster-General be, and hereby is, authorized to establish a uniform plan for the registration of such letters on application of parties posting the same, and to require the prepayment of the postage, as well as a registration fee of five cents on every such letter or packet, to be accounted for by postmasters receiving the same in such manner as the Postmaster-General shall direct: *Provided, however*, That such registration shall not be compulsory; and it shall not render the Post-Office Department or its revenue liable for the loss of such letters or packets, or the contents thereof.

Registration of valuable letters.

Registration not compulsory; not to make department liable for loss.

APPROVED, March 3, 1855.

March 4, 1855.

CHAP. CLXXIV.—*An Act to improve the Laws of the District of Columbia, and to codify the same.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint two persons, learned in the law, to revise, simplify, digest, and codify the laws of said District; and, also, the rules and principles of practice, of pleadings, of evidence, and conveyancing; and, also, to add thereto, and codify such laws of the State of Maryland as may be, or become in force during the preparation of said code, and applicable to the circumstances and condition of said District; and the said code shall be constructed according to a simple method, and be expressed in language concise and plain, and, far as possible, be made level to the understanding of a person of ordinary intelligence and education; and it shall contain a full and particular index to all its contents; and the preparation of the said code shall be made under the superintendence and revision of the Attorney-General of the United States, and as the same progresses shall be printed, under his direction; and the said codifiers shall each be paid for their services, out of the treasury of the United States, at the rate of three thousand dollars a year. And the board of aldermen and common council of the city of

Codification of laws of district of Columbia.