

BY AUTHORITY.

PUBLIC ACTS.

Passed during the first session of the Thirty-first Congress.

[Public—No. 26.]

AN ACT to authorize notaries public to take and certify oaths, affirmations, and acknowledgments in certain cases.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in all cases in which, under the laws of the United States, oaths, affirmations, or acknowledgments may now be taken or made before any justice or justices of the peace of any State or Territory, such oaths, affirmations, or acknowledgments may be hereafter also taken or made by or before any notary public duly appointed in any State or Territory, and, when certified under the hand and official seal of such notary, shall have the same force and effect as if taken or made by or before such justice or justices of the peace.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That all the powers and authority conferred in and by the preceding section of this act upon notaries public, be, and the same are hereby vested in and may be exercised by, any commissioner appointed, or hereafter to be appointed, by any circuit court of the United States, under any act of Congress authorizing the appointment of commissioners to take bail, affidavits, or depositions, in causes pending in the courts of the United States.

HOWELL COBB,

Speaker of the House of Representatives. WILLIAM R. KING, President of the Senate pro tempore. MILLARD FILLMORE.

[Public—No. 27.]

AN ACT to extend the port of New Orleans.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the port of New Orleans shall be, and is hereby, extended as to embrace the whole parish of New Orleans, on both sides of the Mississippi river.

[Public—No. 28.]

AN ACT making appropriations for the support of the Military Academy for the year ending the thirtieth June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the support of the Military Academy for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one:

For pay of officers, instructors, cadets and musicians, eighty-seven thousand four hundred and thirty-six dollars.

For commutation of subsistence, two thousand two hundred and sixty-three dollars.

For forage of officers' horses, eight hundred and sixty-four dollars: Provided, That hereafter, in lieu of the forage, ordinary rations, forage, and servants, heretofore received, under the provisions of the act of April twelfth, eighteen hundred and twelve, the Professors of Engineers, Philosophy, Mathematics, Ethics, and Chemistry, shall be entitled to receive two thousand dollars each per annum: and the Professors of Drawing and French, fifteen hundred dollars each per annum.

For clothing for officers' servants, thirty dollars.

For repairs, fuel, apparatus, forage for public horses and oxen, stationary printing, and other incidental and contingent expenses, twenty-eight thousand eight hundred and eighty-four dollars.

For the increase and expense of the library, one thousand dollars.

For expenses of the board of visitors, two thousand five hundred and seventeen dollars and forty-seven cents.

For barracks for cadets, forty-eight thousand five hundred dollars.

For new mess-hall, twenty-five thousand dollars.

For hospital for enlisted men, two thousand dollars.

For erecting permanent guard-house and commissary store, three thousand dollars.

Approved September 16, 1850.

[Public—No. 29.]

AN ACT to provide for the printing of the Annual Report upon Commerce and Navigation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause the annual report upon commerce and navigation to be completed at as early a day before the first Monday in January in each year as is practicable.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That when completed or in the course of its progress towards completion, if that will give despatch to the business, the work of printing, under the superintendence of said Secretary, shall be commenced, and the whole shall be printed and ready for delivery on or before the first day of January next ensuing the close of the fiscal year to which the report relates.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That until Congress shall otherwise direct, the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause to be printed, in the same manner as other printing of the Department, twenty thousand copies of said report, which shall be distributed as follows: first, the usual number for the use of the members of the two Houses and the officers; second, five hundred copies for the use of the Treasury Department; and thirdly, as nearly as may be, five thousand copies to the Senate, and thirteen thousand copies to the House, to be distributed by the members of each House.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the report aforesaid, except such as are to be bound with other public documents, shall be substantially bound: Provided, that the expense thereof shall not exceed twelve and a half cents for each copy.

Approved Sept. 16, 1850.

[Public—No. 30.]

AN ACT making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending June the thirtieth, eighteen hundred and fifty-one.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and they are hereby, appropriated for the service of the Post Office Department, for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated:

For compensation of three Assistant Postmasters General, clerks, messengers, assistant messengers, and watchmen of said Department, ninety-six thousand three hundred and sixty-five dollars: Provided, That this appropriation shall be in lieu of any other appropriation heretofore made for the objects contemplated by this provision.

For compensation of the Superintendent of the Post Office building, two hundred and fifty dollars.

For contingent expense of said department viz: For blank books, binding, stationary, fuel, and oil, printing, labor, day watching, and for arrears of contingencies in the fiscal year ending thirtieth June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty, nine thousand two hundred and ninety-two dollars.

For miscellaneous items, eight hundred dollars.

For repairs of the General Post Office building, office, furniture, painting, glazing, papering, and brick work, including sums now due for like objects of expenditure, five thousand and eighty-three dollars.

For fitting with three-ply carpets sixty rooms in the General Post Office building, three thousand five hundred dollars.

For painting the interior of the General Post Office building, including the passage and stairways, five thousand dollars.

For compensation of the Auditor of the Post Office Department, and the clerks, messenger, and assistant messenger in his office, eighty-five thousand eight hundred dollars.

For compensation of fifteen additional clerks—four at one thousand four hundred dollars each, four at one thousand two hundred dollars each, and seven at one thousand dollars each, per annum—seventeen thousand four hundred dollars.

For contingent expenses of said office, viz: for blank books, binding, stationary, labor, printing, blank and circulars, five thousand seven hundred dollars.

For miscellaneous items, one thousand dollars; and the Postmaster General is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to dispose of to the best advantage any quarterly returns of mails sent or received which were made up previous to eighteen hundred and forty-five, preserving the accounts current, and all vouchers accompanying such accounts, and to use such portion of the proceeds thereof as may be necessary to defray the cost of separating and disposing of the same.

For additional compensation to two night watchmen in the General Post Office building from 1st July, eighteen hundred and forty-nine, to June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, so as to place them on the same footing as the watchmen in the other executive buildings, and to correct an error in the act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of government for the year commencing first July, eighteen hundred and forty-nine, whereby one hundred and thirty dollars were appropriated for the "messenger" instead of the two watchmen in the Post Office Department, (acts second session, thirtieth Congress, page 62.) two hundred and sixty dollars; and the said clause making an appropriation of additional compensation of one hundred and thirty dollars for messenger of Post Office Department is hereby repealed.

For transportation of the mails, including the service in California and Oregon, two million nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails in two steamships from New York, by Southampton, to Bremen, at one hundred thousand dollars for each ship, under the contract with the Ocean Steam Navigation Company of New York; and for transportation by two ships, under the same contract, from New York to Havre, at seventy-five thousand dollars each, in addition to unexpended balance of former appropriations, [sixty-six thousand] six hundred and sixty-seven thousand dollars: Provided, That the steamships to Havre shall be constructed according to the requirements of the act of third of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, providing for the transportation of the mail between the United States and foreign countries, and shall perform with the speed required in the contract of second February, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven; and that the two steamships to Bremen shall from and after the first June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, comply, in all respects, with the requirements of said act of one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, and shall perform mail service with the speed required by the contract aforesaid.

For transportation of the mails between Charleston and Havana, by way of Key West, calling at Savannah, under the contract with M. C. Mordecai, fifty thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails across the Isthmus of Panama, thirty-five thousand dollars.

For compensation to postmasters, one million four hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

For ship, steamboat and way letters, forty-five thousand dollars.

For wrapping paper, twenty-four thousand dollars.

For office furniture (in the post offices,) eight thousand dollars.

For advertising, sixty-five thousand dollars.

For mail bags, twenty-five thousand dollars.

For blanks, twenty-eight thousand dollars.

For mail locks, keys and stamps, ten thousand dollars.

For mail depredations and special agents, thirty thousand dollars.

For clerks for offices, (in the post offices,) three hundred and forty thousand dollars.

For miscellaneous, seventy thousand dollars.

For publishing new editions of the post office laws and regulations, and of the table of post offices, eight thousand five hundred dollars.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to pay out of any money in the treasury at the credit of the Post Office Department, all such balances as have or may hereafter become due to the General Post Office of London, upon the adjustment of the quarterly accounts arising out of the Postal Convention, concluded December fifteen, eighteen hundred and forty-eight, between the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Approved, September 16, 1850.

General Railroad Convention.

At a general meeting of Delegates, to the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Convention, assembled at Wytheville, on the 11th day of September, 1850—the meeting was called to order by James W. Sheffield, Esq., of Smyth, and on motion of Charles F. M. Garnett, of Lynchburg, John M. Preston, a delegate from Washington, was appointed President of the Convention, and on his further motion, Mr. Harold Smyth, of Wytheville, was appointed Secretary to the Convention, and Mr. Wm. H. Cook, of Carroll, was appointed assistant Secretary.

The roll of Delegates being called, the following Delegates answered to their names, viz:

From Richmond—Captain Charles Dimmock, J. R. Anderson, W. W. Owens, H. L. Brooke, Edwin Robinson and Wm. W. Crump.

From Lynchburg—C. F. M. Garnett, Chas. H. Lynch, F. B. Deane, J. R. Hughes, Henry Davis and Andrew Allison.

From Prince Edward County—Rev. M. Osborne, Thos. B. Rice, J. J. Rice and Wm. C. Flournoy.

From Roanoke County—William M. Cook.

From Montgomery County—J. B. J. Logan, Thos. H. Foulkes, J. P. Edmundson and Cephas Shelburne.

From Pulaski County—Dr. Edwin Watson, J. N. Peirce, John Wygal, sr., Thos. J. Poage, Crockett Grayson, H. Shepherd, Meredith Riens and Jas. N. Cloyd.

From Washington County—John M. Preston, Wm. Y. C. White, William K. Heiskell and Rev. R. Johnson.

From Smyth County—James W. Sheffield, Vincent S. Morgan and M. C. Crockett.

From Carroll County—William H. Cook, Charles L. Dawson and Samuel Fowler.

From Grayson County—Samuel McCamant, James Dickey and R. Vaughan.

From Wye County—David Graham, Robert Raper, John Sanders, Alex. Pierce, John C. Graham, Ephraim McGavock, Gordon C. Kent, Charles L. Crockett, Judge James E. Brown, Thos. Wynn, P. S. Buckingham, Thos. J. Boyd, Robert Kent, Harold Smyth, Benjamin Rusler, David Sexton, J. A. Graham, W. Alex. Stuart, John P. Mathews, Isaac J. Leftwich, Anderson Howard, Hon. A. S. Fulton, Thos. J. Morrison, John S. Crockett, Col. James H. Piper, L. D. Hancock, John Stailey, F. Allison, J. N. Copenhaver, G. A. Crockett, Stephen McGavock, Wm. M. Chatwell, Robert Sayers sr., Daniel Hoag, G. C. McGavock, Jacob Clark, John T. Sayers, J. B. Straw, M. B. Tate, Stephen Repass, D. B. Sanders, Thos. Shannon, Eli Davis, and Daniel Brown.

It being represented to the convention, that Mr. Withmell P. Tunstall, of Pittsylvania, President of the Richmond and Danville Railroad, was in attendance; on motion he was invited to take a seat in the convention and participate in its proceedings.

Mr. Archibald Stuart, of Patrick county, was invited to a seat in the convention, he accepted the same but declined participating in its action, or in any manner committing his county to its action.

Messrs. Hamilton R. Bogle, Charles H. Greaver, John H. Perry, Isham R. Chadle, and Henry Bowen, citizens of Tazewell county, being present, [though not as delegates] were invited to seats in the convention.

On motion, by Mr. Sheffield, a committee to prepare business for the convention was ordered to be appointed by the chair. Whereupon the following gentlemen were named as a committee: C. F. M. Garnett, Wm. Y. C. White, F. B. Deane, jr., James W. Sheffield, Andrew S. Fulton, John B. Logan, H. L. Brooke, Edwin Robinson, Wm. C. Flournoy, Samuel McCamant, Wm. M. Cook, Thos. J. Poage, Wm. H. Cook, Whitmell P. Tunstall, Archibald Stuart, and Hamilton R. Bogle.

On motion, a committee to obtain subscriptions during the session of the convention was ordered to be appointed—whereupon the chair announced the following gentlemen for said committee, viz: David Graham, Thos. J. Boyd, Charles H. Lynch, Samuel McCamant, Wm. K. Heiskell, Robert Raper, Chas. L. Crockett and John C. Graham.

Col. Charles F. M. Garnett, principal Engineer of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad then addressed the convention, giving an account of the progress of the work, and the demand for additional subscriptions to further the speedy extension of the work from Salem in Roanoke westward—and on the general subject of railroads and their utility.

On motion of Mr. Sheffield, an invitation was extended to the ladies of Wytheville, &c., to attend the deliberations of the Convention.

And then the convention until 3 o'clock.

At 3 o'clock the President took the chair, and called the Convention to order.

Mr. William C. Flournoy, of Farmville, Prince Edward county, and Mr. F. B. Deane, jr., of Lynchburg, addressed the meeting, urging the importance of the great work, showing its great value and perfect practicability.

And then the meeting adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

THURSDAY, Sept. 12, 1850.

The convention met pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Mr. Chas. L. Crockett, the Rev. Mr. Osborne, of the Prince Edward delegation was requested to open the meeting with prayer, which was done.

Mr. Sheffield, from the committee appointed to prepare business, offered the following report and resolutions for the consideration of the convention and recommended their adoption:

The committee charged with the duty of preparing and reporting business for the convention, respectfully submit for its action, and recommend for its adoption the following resolutions:

1. That it is necessary and important to the successful prosecution of the work of the Virginia and Tennessee R. Road, that there be raised as speedily as possible an additional private subscription of stock of \$200,000, and that the object of this convention is to devise means of raising the amount.

2. That having an assurance that Richmond will subscribe liberally to the improvement, we entertain a cheering confidence that the required amount can and will be raised.

3. That, in view of a cordial co-operation on the part of the citizens of Richmond, with the great work which this convention has met to advance, it be recommended to the stockholders of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, at their next meeting, to furnish every necessary assurance of an early connexion with the Eastern portion of the State, on the South side of James River.

4. That it is not only the interest, but the duty of citizens along the line to subscribe promptly and liberally to an improvement which is destined to be the greatest thoroughfare of trade and travel in the Union, if not in the world, and which will raise our drooping mother from the dust and make her great and prosperous.

5. That new subscribers should only be required to pay at present two dollars per share upon their subscriptions, and in future the same requisitions, pari passu, with the old subscribers till the old subscriptions are exhausted.

6. That a committee of five in each county and town interested in this improvement be appointed to obtain subscriptions of stock for the extension and completion of the work.

7. That a competent agent should be employed by the company to solicit and obtain subscriptions of stock to an amount sufficient, if practicable, to complete at an early period the road to the Tennessee line.

A motion was made that the same be adopted.

Whereupon Mr. Brooke, of Richmond, rose to offer an explanation in behalf of that city as to her present and past position as a friend of this improvement. Mr. Brooke closed by stating that himself and colleagues, although not officially authorized to do so, were prepared to announce to the convention, from their knowledge of Richmond feeling towards the Southwest and the proposed improvement, and her own great interests, that that city would meet the counties of Southwestern Virginia with dollar per dollar to further the speedy completion of this great work.

Mr. Whitmell P. Tunstall, of Pittsylvania, then addressed the meeting in support of the resolutions, and of an energetic exertion to complete this railroad as speedily as possible—at the close of Mr. Tunstall's speech, which was frequently interrupted by great applause, a proposition was made for subscriptions, and after a short time spent in that effort—the convention, on motion, took a recess until 3 o'clock.

Afternoon Session.

The convention met pursuant to adjournment. The report and resolutions of the committee being under consideration.

Mr. Crump, of Richmond, addressed the convention in support of the resolutions and a still farther presentation of Richmond sentiment as regards this improvement. He sustained the position and statements of his colleague, Mr. Brooke, and reiterated the promise that Richmond, although heavily in debt for enterprises of like kind, would not fail to come to the rescue and to the aid of the citizens of the Southwest in this undertaking.

Mr. Ben Rush Floyd, of Wythe, then addressed the convention in support of the resolutions, after which they were read from the Secretary's table, and the question being on their adoption, it was put and carried unanimously.

On motion of Mr. Cook, of Carroll, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of nine be appointed to prepare an address to the citizens of South-Western Virginia, in relation to the propriety and necessity of making subscriptions to the stock of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad.

Thereupon, the following gentlemen were appointed said committee, viz.—C. F. M. Garnett, A. S. Fulton, Wm. K. Heiskell, James W. Sheffield, Samuel McCamant, Thos. J. Poage, John B. J. Logan, Francis B. Deane, and Ben Rush Floyd.

The following are the committees to obtain subscriptions, appointed under the sixth resolution of the committee to prepare business, viz:

For Grayson—Wm. C. Parks, Alex. Porter, Orville Anderson, Robert Vaughan, Samuel McCamant.

For Carroll—Lewis Starr, John Cook, James D. Coolley, F. L. Hafe, W. H. Cook.

For Smyth—Vincent S. Morgan, E. S. Watson, W. W. Hanson, John G. Cecil, James W. Sheffield.

For Washington—James L. Davis, Mathew H. Buchanan, Dr. Samuel Dunn, Wm. K. Heiskell, John M. Preston.

For Pulaski—Dr. Edwin Watson, B. F. Wyso, Crockett Grayson, Harvey Shepherd, John C. Darat.

For Wythe—David Graham, Thos. J. Boyd, A. S. Fulton, John C. Graham, James L. Yost.

For Roanoke—John A. Langhorne, John Tayloe, Dr. John H. Griffin, Madison Pitzer, Henry H. Chapman.

For Montgomery—James R. Kent, Geo. W. Barnett, Eli Phlegar, A. P. Eskridge, Thomas H. Foulkes.

For Tazewell—Hamilton R. Bogle, Thos. H. Gillespie, John A. Kelly, Dr. Isaac B. Bogle, Thomas Bowen, Smith, Thos. C. M. Alderson.

For Lee—John D. Sharpe, Jonathan Richmond, M. B. D. Lane, Jonathan Gibson, J. M. Crockett.

For Scott—W. H. Morrison, Henry S. Kane, Wm. B. Neal, James T. Melver, Isaac H. Gray.

For Giles—A. G. Pendleton, Rufus A. French, Joseph A. Pack, Wm. H. Snidow, Absalom Fry.

For Mercer—David Hall, George N. Pearis, Napoleon French, Alexander Mahood, Elijah Bailly.

For Floyd—Harvey Deskins, Geo. Rosenbaum, Joseph Howard, Pleasant Howell, Dr. Tazewell Headen.

On motion of C. F. M. Garnett, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this convention be given to the President for the able and very satisfactory manner that he has discharged the duties of his office.

On motion of Ben Rush Floyd, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this convention be most respectfully returned to the trustees of the Methodist E. Church, for their very polite permission to occupy it during the session of the convention.

On motion of Ben R. Floyd,

Resolved, That the Wytheville Republican, the Abingdon Virginian and Democrat, Tazewell Democrat, the Farmville Republican, the Danville Register, and the Lynchburg and Richmond papers be requested to publish the proceedings of this convention.

The convention adjourned sine die.

JOHN M. PRESTON, President. HAROLD SMYTH, Secretary.