

for each ship; and in two steamships from New York, by Cowes, to Havre, and back, at seventy-five thousand dollars for each ship, under the contract with the Ocean Steam Navigation Company of New York, three hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails between Charleston and Havana, under the contract with M. C. Mordecai, fifty thousand dollars.

Isthmus of Panama.

For the transportation of the mails across the Isthmus of Panama, one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

APPROVED, March 3, 1855.

March 3, 1855. CHAP. CXCIX.—*An Act to organize an Institution for the Insane of the Army and Navy, and of the District of Columbia, in the said District.*

Government hospital for the insane.
Its object.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the title of the institution shall be the Government Hospital for the Insane, and its objects shall be the most humane care and enlightened curative treatment of the insane of the army and navy of the United States, and of the District of Columbia.

Board of visitors.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That nine citizens of the District of Columbia, to be appointed by the President of the United States, shall constitute a Board of Visitors of the said hospital. The term of office of three of the nine visitors shall expire [the] thirtieth day of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, and biennially thereafter on the same day of the year, when they shall be reappointed, or three other citizens appointed in their stead. The order in which the terms of office of the first nine appointees shall expire shall be determined by lot; and should any vacancy occur by death, resignation, or otherwise, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term of such visitor. The Board of Visitors, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, may make any needful by-laws for the government of themselves and of the superintendent, and his employees, and of the patients, not inconsistent with this act, nor with the Constitution and laws of the United States; they shall visit the hospital at stated periods, and exercise so careful a supervision over its expenditures and general operations, that the government and community may have confidence in the correctness of its management; they shall make annually to the Secretary of the Interior a report for the preceding year ending June thirtieth, setting forth the condition and wants of the institution. The Board shall elect one of their number president, who shall preside at their meetings for one year, or till a successor is elected. The office of visitor shall be honorary and without compensation.

Their power and duties.

Superintendent.

Salary.

Duties.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the chief executive officer of the institution shall be a superintendent, to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, and to receive a salary of two thousand five hundred dollars per annum. The superintendent shall be a well-educated physician, possessing competent experience in the care and treatment of the insane; he shall reside on the premises, and devote his whole time to the welfare of the institution; he shall, subject to the approval of the visitors, engage and discharge all needful and usual employees in the care of the insane, and all laborers on the farm, and determine their wages and duties; he shall be the responsible disbursing agent of the institution, and shall be ex officio secretary of the Board of Visitors; and he shall give bond for the faithful performance of his duties, in such sum and with such securities as may be required by the Secretary of the Interior.

Reception of insane on order.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the order of the Secretary of War, and that of the Secretary of the Navy, shall authorize the superintendent to receive insane persons belonging to the army and navy, respectively, and keep them in custody till they are cured, or removed by the same authority which ordered their reception.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That all indigent insane persons residing in the District of Columbia at the time they became insane, shall be entitled to the benefits of the institution, and shall be admitted on the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, which he may grant after due process of law showing the person to be insane and unable to support himself (or herself) and family, (or themselves, if they have no family) under the visitation of insanity.

Residents of District of Columbia, entitled to privileges of the hospital.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever there are vacancies, private patients from the District may be received at a rate of board to be determined by the visitors, but to be in no case less than the actual cost of their support.

Private patients may be received.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That all appropriations of money by Congress for the support of the institution, shall be drawn from the treasury on the requisition of the Secretary of the Interior, and shall be disbursed and accounted for in all respects according to the laws regulating ordinary disbursements of public money.

Appropriations to be drawn on requisition of Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall take effect from and after the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

Act to take effect July 1, 1855.

APPROVED, March 3, 1855.

CHAP. CC.—*An Act extending the Provisions of the Act of August fourth, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, entitled "An Act to grant the Right of Way to all Rail and Plank-roads and Macadamized Turnpikes passing through the Public Lands belonging to the United States," to the Public Lands in the Territories of the United States.*

March 3, 1855.

1852, ch. 80.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of the act entitled "An act to grant the right of way to all rail and plank roads and macadamized turnpikes passing through the public lands belonging to the United States," approved August fourth, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, be and the same is hereby extended to all of the public lands of the United States in the Territories of the United States.

Act extended to all public lands in the territories.

APPROVED, March 3, 1855.

CHAP. CCI.—*An Act making Appropriations for the Service of the Post-Office Department during the fiscal year, ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.*

March 3, 1855.

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 for the service of the Post-Office Department, for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, out of any moneys in the treasury arising from the revenues of the said department, in conformity to the act of the second of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six :—

1836, ch. 270.

For transportation of the mails, five million nine hundred and eighty-one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight dollars.

Transportation of mails.

For the transportation of the United States mail over the Michigan Central Railroad, (five hundred and eighteen miles,) from the ninth June, eighteen hundred and forty-nine, to the twenty-eighth November, of the same year, five thousand one hundred and seventy-seven dollars and sixty cents.

For compensation to postmasters, two million one hundred and fifty thousand dollars ;

Postmasters.

For ship, steamboat, and way letters, twenty thousand dollars ;

Ship, &c. letters.

For wrapping paper, forty-eight thousand dollars ;

Miscellaneous.

For office furniture in the post-offices, six thousand five hundred dollars ;

For advertising, one hundred thousand dollars ;

For mail-bags, fifty-four thousand dollars ;