

be and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the construction of a wagon road from Fort Defiance in the Territory of New Mexico, to the Colorado River, near the mouth of the Mohava River.

Also from Fort Defiance to the Colorado.

APPROVED, February 17, 1857.

CHAP. LV.—An Act to increase the Pay of the Officers of the Army.

Feb. 21, 1857.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the commencement of the present fiscal year, the pay of each commissioned officer of the army, including military storekeepers, shall be increased twenty dollars per month, and that the commutation price of officers' subsistence shall be thirty cents per ration.

Pay of army officers increased.

Commutation price for rations.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of War be authorized, on the recommendation of the council of administration, to extend the additional pay herein provided to any person serving as chaplain, at any post of the army.

Additional pay may be extended to chaplains at army posts.

APPROVED, February 21, 1857.

CHAP. LVI.—An Act relating to Foreign Coins and to the Coinage of Cents at the Mint of the United States.

Feb. 21, 1857.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the pieces commonly known as the quarter, eighth, and sixteenth of the Spanish pillar dollar, and of the Mexican dollar, shall be receivable at the treasury of the United States, and its several offices, and at the several post-offices and land-offices, at the rates of valuation following,—that is to say, the fourth of a dollar, or piece of two reals, at twenty cents; the eighth of a dollar, or piece of one real, at ten cents; and the sixteenth of a dollar, or half real, at five cents.

How much Spanish and Mexican coins are to be received for by United States.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said coins, when so received, shall not again be paid out, or put in circulation, but shall be recoined at the mint. And it shall be the duty of the director of the mint, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to prescribe such regulations as may be necessary and proper, to secure their transmission to the mint for recoinage, and the return or distribution of the proceeds thereof, when deemed expedient, and to prescribe such forms of account as may be appropriate and applicable to the circumstances: *Provided*, That the expenses incident to such transmission or distribution, and of recoinage, shall be charged against the account of silver profit and loss, and the net profits, if any, shall be paid from time to time into the treasury of the United States.

Said coins to be recoined.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That all former acts authorizing the currency of foreign gold or silver coins, and declaring the same a legal tender in payment for debts, are hereby repealed; but it shall be the duty of the director of the mint to cause assays to be made, from time to time, of such foreign coins as may be known to our commerce, to determine their average weight, fineness, and value, and to embrace in his annual report a statement of the results thereof.

Former acts making foreign coins a currency or legal tender repealed.

Assays of foreign coins to be made, and annually reported.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, the standard weight of the cent coined at the mint shall be seventy-two grains, or three twentieths of one ounce troy, with no greater deviation than four grains in each piece; and said cent shall be composed of eighty-eight per centum of copper and twelve per centum of nickel, of such shape and device as may be fixed by the director of the mint, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury; and the coinage of the half cent shall cease.

Weight and composition of cents.

Purchase of materials therefor.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the treasurer of the mint, under the instruction of the Secretary of the Treasury, shall, from time to time, purchase from the bullion fund of the mint the materials necessary for the coinage of such cent piece, and transfer the same to the proper operative officers of the mint to be manufactured and returned in coin.

Former laws extended to such cents.

And the laws in force relating to the mint and the coinage of the precious metals, and in regard to the sale and distribution of the copper coins, shall, so far as applicable, be extended to the coinage herein provided for: *Provided*, That the net profits of said coinage, ascertained in like manner as is prescribed in the second section of this act, shall be transferred to the treasury of the United States.

Profits.

Such cents may be paid out and transmitted, &c.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful to pay out the said cent at the mint in exchange for any of the gold and silver coins of the United States, and also in exchange for the former copper coins issued: and it shall be lawful to transmit parcels of the said cents, from time to time, to the assistant treasurers, depositaries, and other officers of the United States, under general regulations proposed by the director of the mint, and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, for exchange as aforesaid. And it shall also be lawful for the space of two years from the passage of this act and no longer, to pay out at the mint the cents aforesaid for the fractional parts of the dollar hereinbefore named, at their nominal value of twenty-five, twelve-and-a-half and six-and-a-quarter cents, respectively.

To be paid out for certain coins at old rate for two years.

Time extended, 1859, ch. 80, § 2. *Post*, p. 422.

Annual report of director of the mint to be made up to June 30.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That hereafter the director of the mint shall make his annual report to the Secretary of the Treasury, up to the thirtieth of June in each year, so that the same may appear in his annual report to Congress on the finances.

APPROVED, February 21, 1857.

Feb. 21, 1857.

CHAP. LVII.—*An Act to divide the State of Texas into two Judicial Districts.*

Texas divided into two judicial districts.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the State of Texas be and the same is hereby divided into two judicial districts, in the following manner, to wit: All the territory of the State of Texas embraced in the counties of Newton, Jasper, Jefferson, Orange, Tyler, Polk, Liberty, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Austin, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Colorado, Wharton, Matagorda, Lavacca, Jackson, Calhoun, Dewitt, Victoria, Goliad, Refugio, San Patricio, Nueces, Cameron, Starr, Webb, and Hidalgo, as they existed in eighteen hundred and fifty-two, shall compose one district, to be called the eastern district of Texas; and all the remaining part of the territory of the said State shall compose another district, to be called the western district of Texas.

Terms of Court.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be held in each year four terms of the district court of the eastern district of Texas, two of which terms shall be begun and held at Galveston on the first Mondays in December and May, respectively; and the other two shall be begun and held at Brownsville on the first Mondays of March and October, respectively; and four terms of the district court of the western district of Texas shall be held in each year, two of which terms shall be begun and held at Austin on the first Mondays of January and June, respectively; and the other two shall be begun and held at Tyler on the first Mondays of March and November, respectively; and the said courts are hereby authorized to hold adjourned terms when the business of the said courts shall, in the opinion of the judge or judges, require it.

Transfer of suits and process.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That all suits and proceedings of whatever name or nature pending in the district court of Texas, at any of the places at which terms of the said courts were enjoined to be held, and which said places may be within the eastern district of Texas, shall be