exceeding one year from the date of their being landed on the coast of Africa, at a price in no case to exceed one hundred dollars for each person so clothed, sheltered, and provided with food: *Provided*, That any contract so made as aforesaid may be renewed by the President from time to time as found necessary for periods not to exceed five years on each renewal.

Contract may be renewed from time to time.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to issue instructions to the commanders of the armed vessels of the United States, directing them whenever it shall be practicable, and under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, to proceed directly to the coast of Africa, and there deliver to the agent or agents of the United States all negroes, mulattoes, and persons of color delivered from on board vessels seized in the prosecution of the slave trade, afterwards bringing the captured vessels and persons engaged in prosecuting the slave trade to the United States for trial and adjudication.

United States vessels to proceed at once to coast of Africa, and there deliver such negroes, &c.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to take immediate measures in his discretion in accordance with existing laws, and with the provisions of the first section of this act, for removing to the coast of Africa, and there providing with food, shelter, and clothing for a term not exceeding one year from the date of landing in Africa the captured Africans recently landed in the southern district of Florida, and that the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars be appropriated for that purpose out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated by law.

This act to be applied to Africans recently landed in Florida, and appropriation therefor.

APPROVED, June 16, 1860.

CHAP. CXXXVII.—*An Act to facilitate Communication between the Atlantic and Pacific States by Electric Telegraph.*

June 16, 1860.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury, under the direction of the President of the United States, is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for sealed proposals, to be received for sixty days after the passage of this act, (and the fulfilment of which shall be guaranteed by responsible parties, as in the case of bids for mail contracts,) for the use by the government of a line or lines of magnetic telegraph, to be constructed within two years from the thirty-first day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty, from some point or points on the west line of the State of Missouri, by any route or routes which the said contractors may select, (connecting at such point or points by telegraph with the cities of Washington, New Orleans, New York, Charleston, Philadelphia, Boston, and other cities in the Atlantic, Southern, and Western States,) to the city of San Francisco, in the State of California, for a period of ten years, and shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder or bidders, provided such proffer does not require a larger amount per year from the United States than forty thousand dollars; and permission is hereby granted to the said parties to whom said contract may be awarded, or a majority of them, and their assigns, to use until the end of the said term, such unoccupied public lands of the United States as may be necessary for the right of way and for the purpose of establishing stations for repairs along said line, not exceeding at any station one quarter-section of land, such stations not to exceed one in fifteen miles on an average of the whole distance, unless said lands shall be required by the government of the United States for railroad or other purposes, and provided that no right to preëm[p]t any of said lands under the laws of the United States shall inure to said company, their agents or servants, or to any other person or persons whatsoever: *Provided*, That no such contract shall be made until the said line shall be in actual operation, and

Post, pp. 533, 534.

Proposals to be advertised for.

Contract to be given to lowest responsible bidder, &c.

Right of way &c.

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Contract not to be made until line is in operation, &c.

payments thereunder shall cease whenever the contractors fail to comply with their contract: that the government shall at all times be entitled to priority in the use of the line or lines, and shall have the privilege, when authorized by law, of connecting said line or lines by telegraph with any military posts of the United States, and to use the same for government purposes: *And provided, also,* That said line or lines, except such as may be constructed by the government to connect said line or lines with the military posts of the United States, shall be open to the use of all citizens of the United States during the term of the said contract, on payment of the regular charges for transmission of dispatches: *And provided, also,* That such charges shall not exceed three dollars for a single dispatch of ten words, with the usual proportionate deductions upon dispatches of greater length, provided that nothing herein contained shall confer upon the said parties any exclusive right to construct a telegraph to the Pacific, or debar the government of the United States from granting, from time to time, similar franchises and privileges to other parties.

Lines to be open to the use of all citizens, on payment, &c.

Rates of charges.

Right granted not to be exclusive.

Branch line to Oregon.

Right of way, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the said contractors, or their assigns, shall have the right to construct and maintain, through any of the territories of the United States, a branch line, so as to connect their said line or lines with Oregon; and that they shall have the permanent right of way for said line or lines, under, or over, any unappropriated public lands and waters in the said territories, by any route or routes which the said contractors may select, with the free use during the said term of such lands as may be necessary for the purpose of establishing stations for repairs along said line or lines, not exceeding, at any station, one quarter-section of land, such stations not to exceed one in fifteen miles on an average of the whole distance; but should any of said quarter-sections be deemed essential by the government, or any company acting under its authority, for railroad purposes, the said contractors shall relinquish the occupancy of so much as may be necessary for the railroad, receiving an equal amount of land for like use in its stead.

If government business, at usual rates, exceeds contract price, excess to be certified to Congress.

Use to be free for certain scientific purposes.

Telegrams to be impartially transmitted.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That if, in any year during the continuance of the said contract, the business done for the government, as hereinbefore mentioned, by such contractors or their assigns, shall, at the ordinary rate of charges for private messages, exceed the price contracted to be paid as aforesaid, the Secretary of the Treasury shall, upon said accounts being duly authenticated, certify the amount of such excess to Congress: *Provided,* That the use of the line be given, at any time, free of cost, to the Coast Survey, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Observatory, for scientific purposes: *And provided further,* That messages received from any individual, company, or corporation, or from any telegraph lines connecting with this line at either of its termini, shall be impartially transmitted in the order of their reception, excepting that the dispatches of the government shall have priority: *And provided further,* That Congress shall at any time have the right to alter or amend this act.

Congress may alter, &c. this act.

APPROVED, June 16, 1860.

June 16, 1860.

CHAP. CXXXVIII.—*An Act making Appropriation for the Payment of the Expenses of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota.*

$26,000 appropriated for territorial legislature of Minnesota.

1857, ch. 107. Vol. xi. p. 216.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of twenty-six thousand dollars, or so much thereof as has not been heretofore paid, appropriated by the act of March third, Anno Domini eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, for the payment of the expenses of the legislative assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be paid to the State of Minnesota.

APPROVED, June 16, 1860.