dered to congress at the commencement of the next session thereof. And all purchases of articles for the purposes above set forth shall be made of the lowest responsible bidder, after sufficient public notice by advertisement in appropriate newspapers: *Provided, also*, That the said secretary shall not be required to accept any bid which is in his judgment unreasonable in its character: *Provided, further*, That no part of said annuities shall be expended for Indians outside of the Indian Territory south of Kansas, except in providing for such individual Indians or families as are sick and unable to remove to that territory, or such as may be driven out of that territory by armed rebels, after the passage of this act.

Purchases to be made of lowest, &c., bidder.

Limit to expenditures.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That for the temporary subsistence of the Weas, Piankeshaws, Peorias, and Kaskaskias, and furnishing the same with clothing, five thousand dollars.

Weas, Piankeshaws, Peorias, and Kaskaskias.

APPROVED, June 25, 1864.

CHAP. CXLIX. — *An Act to provide for the Examination of certain Officers of the Army.* June 25, 1864.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That every quartermaster and assistant quartermaster, and every commissary and assistant commissary of subsistence, and every paymaster and additional paymaster shall, as soon as practicable, be ordered to appear for examination as to his qualifications before a board to be composed of three staff officers of the corps to which he belongs, of recognized merit and fitness, of whom two at least shall be officers of volunteers, which board shall make a careful examination as to the qualifications of all officers who may appear before them in pursuance of this act, and shall also keep minutes and make a full and true record of the examination in each case. And all members of such boards of examination shall, before proceeding to the discharge of their duties as herein provided, swear or affirm that they will conduct all examinations with impartiality, and with a sole view to the qualifications of the person or persons to be examined, and that they will not divulge the vote of any member upon the examination of any officer who may appear before them.

Quartermasters and assistants, and commissaries and assistants, to be examined.

Examining board, of whom to consist;

what to do;

to be sworn.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That such boards of examination shall be convened under the direction of the Secretary of War, by the quartermaster-general, the commissary-general of subsistence, and the paymaster-general, at convenient places; and general rules of examination and a standard of qualifications shall be prescribed by said officers, subject to the approval of the Secretary of War, and shall be published in general orders.

Boards of examination, how convened, &c.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That after such general orders shall have been published for sixty days, if any officer who shall then be ordered before a board of examiners, under the provisions of this act, shall fail for thirty days, after receiving such special order, to report himself as directed, all his pay and allowances shall cease and be forfeited until he does appear and report for examination; and if he shall still thereafter fail for a further period of thirty days so to appear, he shall thereupon be dropped from the rolls of the army: *Provided, however*, That if such failure to appear and report shall have been occasioned by wounds or sickness, or other physical disability, then there shall be no forfeiture of pay until thirty days after such disability has been removed; but if in sixty days after the disability is removed the officer shall not report himself, he shall then be dropped from the rolls as in other cases.

Officers neglecting to appear for examination, how punished.

Proviso.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That if the board of examination shall report that any officer does not possess the requisite business qualifications, they shall forward the record of the examination of such officer

If officers do not pass examination, what proceedings to be had.

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Officers failing to pass examination.

to the head of the bureau to which he may belong, and if the head of such bureau shall approve the finding and report of the board, he shall forward the same through the Secretary of War to the President of the United States, and if the President shall confirm the same, the officer so failing in his examination shall, if commissioned, be dismissed from the service with one month's pay, and if not yet commissioned, his appointment shall be revoked. And if the board shall report that any officer fails to pass a satisfactory examination by reason of intemperance, gambling, or other immorality, and if the head of the bureau shall approve the finding and report of the board, and the same being communicated, as before provided, to the President and confirmed by him, then such officer shall be dismissed from the service without pay, and shall not be permitted to reënter the service as an officer: *Provided*, That such dismissal shall not relieve him from liability under existing laws for any offence he may have committed.

Records of examining boards.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the boards of examination shall forward all their records of examination to the heads of the bureaus to which they appertain, and such records shall be filed in the proper bureaus with a suitable index; and any officer who may desire it shall be entitled to receive a copy of the record in his own case upon paying the cost of copying the same.

APPROVED, June 25, 1864.

June 25, 1864.

CHAP. CL. — *An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to provide for the Payment of Horses and other Property destroyed in the Military Service of the United States."*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the act to which this is an amendment shall, from the commencement of the present rebellion, extend to and embrace all cases of the loss of horses by any officer, non-commissioned officer, or private in the military service of the United States, while in the line of their duty in such service, by capture by the enemy, whenever it shall appear that such officer, non-commissioned officer, or private was or shall be ordered by his superior officer to surrender to the enemy, and such capture was or shall be made in pursuance of such surrender.

Property of officers lost by capture by the enemy to be paid for.

APPROVED, June 25, 1864.

June 25, 1864.

CHAP. CLI. — *An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to establish and equalize the Grade of Line Officers of the United States Navy," approved July sixteen, eighteen hundred and sixty-two.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the corps of commanders in the navy of the United States on the active list be temporarily increased so as to embrace all who had been appointed as such prior to the commencement of the present session of congress, under that construction of the law which then prevailed in the Navy Department: *Provided*, That the number hereby allowed shall not exceed ninety-one: *And provided, further*, That no further appointments of commanders shall be made on the active list till the number by deaths, dismissals, resignations, or otherwise, shall be reduced to seventy-two.

Corps of commanders in the navy to be temporarily increased.

Provisos.

Certain payments to officers in the navy ratified.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all payments heretofore made to any officers in the navy as captains or commanders, under the construction of the law heretofore prevailing in the Navy Department, be, and the same are hereby, ratified and allowed, and the proper accounting officers of the treasury are hereby authorized and instructed to allow the same, in the same way and manner as if there were no question as to the legality of said appointments.

APPROVED, June 25, 1864.