

first day of July, eighteen hundred and seventy; and whereas, in view of the importance of the service to be performed and the damage to the public interests which would result from failure to put said service in operation at the proper time, it is desirable to fix an earlier period than the first of July for the execution of the contracts, and to adopt such other precautions as may seem necessary to guard against the failure of bidders or contractors to fulfil their obligations: Therefore,

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Postmaster-General be, and he is hereby, authorized, in any case in which he may deem it necessary, to require accepted bidders under the advertisement of September thirtieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, inviting proposals for carrying the mails of the United States in the States and Territories above mentioned, to execute contracts and return them to the department at an earlier period than the first day of July, and, at the discretion of the Postmaster-General, as early as the first day of June, eighteen hundred and seventy.

Sec. 2 *And be it further resolved,* That in any case arising under the aforementioned advertisement in which the Postmaster-General shall have good reason to believe that any bid for carrying the mail on any route has not been made in good faith, he shall be authorized to summon the bidder or bidders to appear before him and show cause why such bid should not be set aside, or immediately executed by entering into contract with sufficient sureties; and the failure of the bidder or bidders to appear in response to such a summons and satisfy the Postmaster-General that said bid has been made in good faith, and that the guarantors thereof are duly responsible, or to enter into such contract, shall be deemed to be sufficient cause for setting such bid aside and entering into contract with the lowest of the bidders who will do so for the performance of the service. And all the bidders shall be seasonably notified that such summons has been issued and that they may be required to enter into such contract.

APPROVED, May 5, 1870.

Preamble.

Postmaster-General may require accepted bidders to execute contracts at an earlier time, &c.;

may summon certain bidders to show cause why such bid should not be set aside, or, &c.

Failure to appear, or, &c. to be sufficient cause for setting bid aside.

Notice to bidders.

[No. 48.] *A Resolution to provide for Survey and Estimates of Cost of removing Obstructions from the Bayou Teche, in the State of Louisiana.*

May 5, 1870.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, instructed to cause a survey and estimates of cost of removing obstructions from and improving the navigation of the Bayou Teche, in the State of Louisiana: *Provided,* That the expense of said survey and estimate shall not exceed the sum of five hundred dollars. And the same is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

APPROVED, May 5, 1870.

Survey and estimates to be made for removing obstructions from Bayou Teche. Proviso. Appropriation.

[No. 49.] *A Resolution for the Transfer of an unexpended Balance of Appropriation to the Book Fund of the Library of Congress.*

May 5, 1870.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars, appropriated by acts approved July thirty, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, and March three, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, "for the expenses of exchanging public documents for the publications of foreign governments," the same being an unexpended balance not required for that purpose, be, and the same is hereby, transferred to the fund for the purchase of books for the library of Congress.

APPROVED, May 5, 1870.

Transfer of appropriation to purchase of books for library of Congress. 1868, ch. 176. Vol. xv. p. 95. 1869, ch. 121. Vol. xv. p. 286.