April 24, 1872.

CHAP. CXIX. — *An Act to extend the Time for the Completion of the military Road from Fort Wilkins, at Copper Harbor, in the State of Michigan, to Fort Howard, at Green Bay, in the State of Wisconsin.*

Time for completing the military road from Fort Wilkins to Fort Howard extended, with original rights, &c.
1863, ch. 104. Vol. xii. p. 797. 1868, ch. 54. Vol. xv. p. 67. 1870, ch. 93. Vol. xvi. p. 121.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the time for the construction and completion of the military road from Fort Wilkins, at Copper Harbor, in the State of Michigan, to Fort Howard, at Green Bay, in the State of Wisconsin, be, and the same is hereby, extended until the first day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-four.

Sec. 2. That all the grants, rights, and privileges contained in the original grant be continued in full force and virtue for said time.

Approved, April 24, 1872.

April 27, 1872.

[Repealed. See *Post*, pp. 326, 330.]

CHAP. CXXV. — *An Act relating to Proposals and Contracts for Transportation of the Mails, and for other Purposes.*

Persons bidding for carrying mails on advertised routes, and awarded the contract for such service, wrongfully refusing to enter into the contract, &c., to be guilty of a misdemeanor, and fined and imprisoned.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person or persons bidding for the transportation of the mails upon any route which may be advertised to be let, and receiving an award of the contract for such service, who shall wrongfully refuse or fail to enter into contract with the postmaster-general, in due form, and perform the service described in his or their bid or proposal, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, and by imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months.

Oath of bidder to be affixed to each bid for carrying the mail, and to contain what.

Sec. 2. That each bid for carrying the mail shall hereafter have affixed to it the oath of the bidder, taken before an officer qualified to administer oaths, that he has the ability pecuniarily to fulfil his obligations, and that the bid is made in good faith and with the intention to enter into contract and perform the service, in case his bid shall be accepted; and that the signatures of his guarantors are genuine, and that he believes said guarantors pecuniarily responsible for and able to pay all damages the United States shall suffer by reason of the bidder's failing to perform his obligations as such bidder.

Penalty upon postmasters, &c., for signing certificate of sufficiency of guarantors before, &c., or for knowingly making a false certificate.

Sec. 3. That any postmaster or other officer of the Post-office Department who shall affix his signature to the certificate of sufficiency of guarantors or sureties before the guaranty or contract is signed by the guarantors or sureties, or shall knowingly make any false or illusory certificate, shall be forthwith dismissed from office and shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

No bidder released from his bid by an award to a lower bidder until, &c.

Sec. 4. That no bidder for carrying the mails shall be released from his obligation under his bid or proposal, notwithstanding an award made to a lower bidder, until a contract for the designated service shall have been duly executed by such lower bidder and his sureties, and accepted, and the service entered upon by the contractor to the satisfaction of the postmaster-general.

If any regular bidder, &c., fails to enter into contract, &c., postmaster-general to do what.

Sec. 5. That after any regular bidder or contractor for the transportation of the mail upon any route shall have failed to enter into contract, and commence the performance thereof as herein provided, the postmaster-general shall proceed to contract with the next lowest bidder for such service, who will enter into a contract and perform the same, unless the postmaster-general shall consider such bid too high; in which case he shall re-advertise such service. And in all cases of regular contracts hereafter made, the contract may, in the discretion of the postmaster-general, be continued in force beyond its express terms for a period not exceeding six months, until a new contract with the same or other contractors shall be made by the postmaster-general.

Regular contracts hereafter made may be continued for not over six months.

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