

such deficiency of the revenues of said Department is hereby appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to supply the said deficiencies in the revenue of the Post Office Department for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-five.

20 Stat., 362.

SEC. 3. That section twenty-nine of the act of March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-nine (United States Statutes at Large, page three hundred and sixty-two), be, and it is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

19 Stat., 335.

Official mail-matter.

Letters, etc., on official business may be sent free by all officers of the United States Government; envelopes to bear statement of penalty, etc.

Official mail-matter of Smithsonian Institution.

Proviso; penalty envelopes to be sent to persons from whom is to be received official mail-matter.

Proviso; certain mail-matter may be registered free.

Proviso.

R. S. 3915, 761.

Repealed.

"The provisions of the fifth and sixth section of the act entitled 'An act establishing post-routes, and for other purposes' approved March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-seven, for the transmission of official mail-matter, be, and they are hereby, extended to all officers of the United States Government, not including members of Congress, the envelopes of such matter in all cases to bear appropriate indorsements containing the proper designation of the office from which or officer from whom the same is transmitted, with a statement of the penalty for their misuse. And the provisions of said fifth and sixth sections are hereby likewise extended and made applicable to all official mail-matter of the Smithsonian Institution: *Provided*, That any Department or officer authorized to use the penalty envelopes may inclose them with return address to any person or persons from or through whom official information is desired, the same to be used only to cover such official information, and indorsements relating thereto: *Provided further*, That any letter or packet to be registered by either of the Executive Departments, or Bureaus thereof, or by the Agricultural Department, or by the Public Printer, may be registered without the payment of any registry fee; and any part-paid letter or packet addressed to either of said Departments or Bureaus may be delivered free; but where there is good reason to believe the omission to prepay the full postage thereon was intentional, such letter or packet shall be returned to the sender: *Provided further*, That this act shall not extend or apply to pension agents or other officers who receive a fixed allowance as compensation for their services, including expenses of postages. And section thirty-nine hundred and fifteen of the Revised Statutes of the United States, so far as the same relates to stamps and stamped envelopes for official purposes, is hereby repealed."

Approved, July 5th, 1884.

July 5, 1884.

CHAP. 235.—An act making appropriations for fortifications and other works of defense, and for the armament thereof, for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-five and for other purposes.

Appropriations.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the following sums are hereby appropriated for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth eighteen hundred and eighty-five, the same to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, as hereinafter provided, for the following purposes, namely:

Fortifications and other works of defense.

Submarine movable torpedoes.

Motors for movable torpedoes.

Submarine mines.

Torpedo experiments.

Instruction of Engineer Corps.

For the protection preservation, and repair of fortifications and other works of defense one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars.

For the purchase of such submarine movable torpedoes, propelled and controlled by power operated from shore stations, as may be recommended by the Board of Engineers of the Army of the United States and approved by the Secretary of War, fifty thousand dollars; for the improvements and test of motors for movable torpedoes, twenty-five thousand dollars; for purchase of submarine mines for harbor defense, five thousand dollars; for continuation of torpedo experiments and for practical instruction of engineer troops in the details of the service, twenty thousand dollars, in all one hundred thousand dollars.

For the purchase of machine guns of the latest improvement, twenty thousand dollars.

Machine guns.

For the armament of sea-coast fortifications, including the manufacture and conversion of heavy guns and carriages, projectiles, fuses, powder, and implements, their trial and proof, and all necessary expenses incident thereto, including compensation of draughtsmen on gun construction while employed in the Ordnance Bureau, four hundred thousand dollars, and not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars thereof, may be used for the expenses of experiments in the use of dynamite or other high explosive projectiles

Armament of sea-coast fortifications.

Experiments in the use of dynamite, etc.

For the preservation of Fort Marion, at Saint Augustine, Florida, and for the enclosure and improvement of the grounds attached to the same, said grounds to be in charge of the commanding officer of said fort, five thousand dollars.

Fort Marion, Saint Augustine, Fla.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary of War to cause the various calibers, lengths of bore, greatest and least admissible weights of guns for each caliber, together with the greatest and least weights of projectiles for each caliber, of all the various calibers required for the service, together with the number of each caliber of gun required, to be determined, and to make the same known to manufacturers of ordnance on their application and to report the same to Congress at its next session for its approval.

Caliber, length of bore, weight of guns, weight of projectile per caliber, etc., to be determined; report to be made to Congress.

SEC. 2. That hereafter all rifled cannon of any particular material, caliber, or kind, made at the cost of the United States shall be publicly subjected to the proper test including such rapid firing as a like gun would be likely to be subjected to in actual battle for the determination of the endurance of the same to the satisfaction of the President of the United States or such persons as he may select; and he is hereby authorized to select not to exceed five persons, who shall be skilled in such matters; and if such gun shall not prove satisfactory, they shall not be put to use in the Government service.

Test of rifled cannon, etc.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy are hereby authorized to sell to projectors of methods of conversion, for experimental purposes only, any smooth-bore cannon on hand required by them, at prices which shall not be less than have been received from auction sales for such articles, and deliver the same, at the cost of the Government, at the nearest convenient place for shipment or public transportation; the cost of delivery to be deducted from the proceeds of sales, and the balance to be covered into the Treasury of the United States.

Sale of smooth-bore cannon for experimental purposes, only.

SEC. 4. That so much of the act making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year eighteen hundred and eighty-three, approved August fifth, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, as provides that the words "ordnance" and "gunpowder" in section thirty-seven hundred and twenty-one of the Revised Statutes shall be construed to mean offensive and defensive arms, ammunition, and explosives, the apparatus for their military use, and the materials for producing the whole, and also transportation, necessary information concerning them, and whatever is requisite in military experiments with them, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

22 Stat., 288.

R. S. 3721, 735.

Provisions of act, etc., determining meaning of words "ordnance" and "gunpowder," repealed.

Approved, July 5, 1884.

CHAP. 331.—An act making appropriations for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, and for other purposes.

July 7, 1884.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, in full compensation for the service of

Appropriations. Legislative, executive, and judicial expenses.