during the construction or after the completion of the bridge, until the proposed change shall have been submitted to the Secretary of War and received his approval; and the said bridge shall be at all times so kept and managed as to offer reasonable and proper means for the passage of vessels under said bridge; and if at any time the navigation of said river shall in any manner be obstructed or impaired by the bridge authorized by this Act to be constructed, the Secretary of War shall have authority, and it shall be his duty, to require said company to alter and change said bridge at its own expense in such manner as may be proper to secure free and complete navigation without impediment.

Lawful structure and post route.

SEC. 3. That any bridge built under this Act and subject to its limitations shall be a lawful structure and shall be recognized and known as a post route, upon which also no higher charge shall be made for the transmission over the same of the mail, the troops and munitions of war of the United States than the rate per mile paid for the transportation over the public highways leading to said bridge, and it shall enjoy the rights and privileges of other post roads of the United States; and equal privileges in the use of said bridge shall be granted to all telegraph and telephone companies, and the United States shall have the right of way across said bridge and its approaches for said postal-telegraph purposes.

Telegraph, etc., companies.

Commencement and completion.

SEC. 4. That this Act shall be null and void if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized be not commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date hereof.

Amendment.

SEC. 5. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, March 2, 1899.

CHAP. 372.—An Act Providing for the purchase of additional property for the use of the post-office and other Government offices in the city of Brooklyn, State of New York.

March 2, 1899.

Brooklyn, N. Y. Purchase of additional property for public building at, authorized.

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 be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to acquire, by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, the property known as lot thirty-six, block twenty, Ward Four, lying on the east side of Washington street, one hundred and seventy-five feet north of Johnson street and one hundred and twenty-two feet ten inches south of Tillary street, in the city of Brooklyn and State of New York, for the use and accommodation of the United States post-office and other Government offices in said city of Brooklyn: *Provided*, That the purchase price shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars.

Proviso. Limit of cost.

Title, etc.

SEC. 2. That no money shall be used for the purpose mentioned until a valid title to the site for the said building shall be vested in the United States, nor until the State of New York shall have ceded to the United States exclusive jurisdiction over the same during the time the United States shall be or remain the owner thereof.

Approved, March 2, 1899.

CHAP. 373.—An Act For the erection of a public building at Elmira, New York.

March 2, 1899.

Elmira, N. Y. Public building authorized.

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 be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to purchase, acquire by condemnation, or otherwise provide a site, and cause to be erected thereon a suitable, commodious, and substantial building, including fireproof vaults, heating and ventilating apparatus, and approaches, for the use and accommodation of the United States post-office, internal-