

August 4, 1886.

CHAP. 899.—An act to amend the pension laws by increasing the pensions of soldiers and sailors who have lost an arm or leg in the service.

Pensions, increased.

Loss of hand or foot.

Loss of arm at or above elbow; leg at or above knee.

Loss of arm at shoulder; leg at hip.

Proviso.
R. S., sec. 4699, p. 915, not repealed.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act all persons on the pension-rolls, and all persons hereafter granted a pension, who, while in the military or naval service of the United States and in line of duty, shall have lost one hand or one foot, or been totally disabled in the same, shall receive a pension of thirty dollars a month; that all persons now on the pension-rolls, and all persons hereafter granted a pension, who in like manner shall have lost either an arm at or above the elbow or a leg at or above the knee, or been totally disabled in the same, shall receive a pension of thirty-six dollars per month; and that all persons now on the pension-rolls, and all persons, hereafter granted a pension who in like manner shall have lost either an arm at the shoulder-joint or a leg at the hip-joint, or so near the joint as to prevent the use of an artificial limb, shall receive a pension at the rate of forty-five dollars per month: *Provided,* That nothing contained in this act shall be construed to repeal section forty-six, hundred and ninety-nine of the Revised Statutes of the United States, or to change the rate of eighteen dollars per month therein mentioned to be proportionately divided for any degree of disability established for which section forty-six hundred and ninety-five makes no provision.

Approved, August 4, 1886.

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CHAP. 900.—An act to authorize the Postmaster-General to allow compensation to railroad companies in certain cases for apartment service heretofore furnished pursuant to agreement.

Postal service.
Compensation for apartments in cars on certain railroads.

Allowance.

Be it enacted 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 to allow compensation to such railroad companies as had furnished apartments in cars for use as railway post-offices of less than forty feet in length, in cases where such apartments had been furnished in pursuance of an agreement or understanding with the Postmaster-General, the Second Assistant Postmaster-General, or the Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service that special compensation should be allowed therefor; such allowances to be proportioned to the length of the apartments furnished, and not exceeding a pro rata of the price allowed for a forty-foot car, and for the time unpaid for up to the date when the company was notified by the Department that such payment could not be made because not warranted by the present law.

Approved, August 4, 1886.

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CHAP. 901.—An act to extend the system for the immediate delivery of letters, and amendatory of sections three, four, and five of the act approved March third, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, and for other purposes."

Immediate delivery extended to all mailable matter.
Vol. 23, p. 388.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That every article of mailable matter upon which the special stamp provided for by section three of the act of Congress approved March third, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, and for other purposes," shall be duly affixed, shall be entitled to immediate delivery, according to said act, within

the carrier-delivery limit of any free-delivery office, and within one mile of any other post-office which the Postmaster-General shall at any time designate as a special-delivery post-office. The postmaster shall be responsible for such immediate delivery of every such article, and shall cause delivery to be made of all such articles received at his office bearing such stamp and entitled to delivery thereat, and may employ any persons, including clerks and assistants, at third and fourth class offices, as messengers, on such terms as he shall fix as compensation for such delivery; and to defray the expense thereof, such postmaster shall be entitled, upon the adjustment of his quarterly account, to eighty per centum of the face value of all such special-delivery stamps received at his office and recorded, according to said act and regulations of the Post-Office Department during the quarter; and such allowance shall be in full of all the expenses of such delivery: *Provided*, That the Postmaster-General may, in his discretion, direct any free-delivery office to be excepted from the foregoing provision, and require the delivery to be made entirely by special messengers, according to the provisions of the act to which this is amendatory: *And provided further*, That he may contract for the immediate delivery of all articles from any post-office at any price less than eight cents per piece, when he shall deem it expedient.

Employment of messengers, third and fourth class office.

Allowance to postmasters.

Provisos.

Free-delivery offices may be excepted.

Contracts may be made.

SEC. 2. That the Postmaster-General shall prescribe suitable regulations, not inconsistent with law, for the performance of the immediate-delivery service, the keeping of the records and rendering of accounts thereof, and all matters connected therewith, and may prescribe the hours within which such immediate delivery shall be made at any post-office.

Regulations to be prescribed by Postmaster-General.

SEC. 3. That any postmaster, or any assistant postmaster, clerk, or employee of a postmaster, who shall make any false return or record of the receipt or delivery of any article of mailable matter as being stamped with a special-delivery stamp, or shall make any false return of the number of articles specially delivered from his office, for the purpose of increasing his compensation under the provisions of this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned for a term of not less than thirty days nor more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court; and whenever, upon evidence deemed satisfactory to him, the Postmaster-General shall determine that any such false return has been made, he may, by order, fix absolutely the compensation of the postmaster for such special delivery during any quarter or quarters which he shall deem affected by such false return, and the Auditor shall adjust the postmaster's account accordingly.

Penalty for false return, etc.

Compensation may be fixed absolutely in case of false return.

SEC. 4. That any person employed to make immediate delivery of letters or other mail-matter under the provisions of this act, or the act of which the same is amendatory, shall be deemed an employee of the postal service, whether he may have been sworn or not, or temporarily or permanently employed, and as such employee shall be liable to any penalties or punishments provided by law for the improper detention, delay, secretion, rifling, embezzlement, purloining, or destruction of any letter or other article of mail-matter, or the contents thereof, intrusted to him for delivery or placed in his custody.

Persons making immediate delivery to be considered in postal service.

Approved, August 4, 1886.