

work, including the wages of printers' assistants, at one dollar and twenty-five cents a day each, when employed, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, twelve thousand dollars.

Materials.

For engravers', printers' and other materials, except distinctive paper, and for miscellaneous expenses, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, eighteen thousand dollars.

Appropriations
available until De-
cember 31, 1898.

That the appropriations made by this Act, except as otherwise provided, shall remain available for payment of liabilities which may be incurred to and including December thirty-first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight.

Approved, June 8, 1898.

June 10, 1898.

CHAP. 423.—An Act For revising and perfecting the classification of letters patent and printed publications in the Patent Office.

Patent Office.
Revision of classifi-
cation of letters pat-
ent, etc.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of determining with more readiness and accuracy the novelty of inventions for which applications for letters patent are or may be filed in the United States Patent Office, and to prevent the issuance of letters patent of the United States for inventions which are not new, the Commissioner of Patents is hereby authorized and directed to revise and perfect the classification, by subjects-matter, of all letters patent and printed publications in the United States Patent Office which constitute the field of search in the examination as to the novelty of invention for which applications for patents are or may be filed.

Additional em-
ployees.
Post, p. 672.

SEC. 2. That for the purpose of enabling the Commissioner of Patents to carry out the provisions of this Act the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to appoint from time to time, in the manner already provided for by law, such additional number of principal examiners, assistant examiners, first-class clerks, copyists, laborers, assistant messengers, and messenger boys as he may deem necessary: *Provided, however,* That the whole number of additional employees shall not exceed three principal examiners, two first assistant examiners, two second assistant examiners, six third assistant examiners, five fourth assistant examiners, four first-class clerks, four copyists, six laborers, six assistant messengers, and six messenger boys; that the annual expenses for this additional force shall not exceed the sum of sixty-two thousand eight hundred and eighty dollars.

Proviso.
Limit.

Approved, June 10, 1898.

June 13, 1898.

CHAP. 446.—An Act Making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine.

Postal service ap-
propriations.
Vol. 5, p. 80.

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 they are hereby, appropriated for the service of the Post-Office Department, in conformity with the Act of July second, eighteen hundred and thirty-six, as follows:

Postmaster-General.

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

Advertising.

For advertising, five thousand dollars.

Miscellaneous.

For miscellaneous items in the office of the Postmaster-General, one thousand dollars.

Postal laws, appro-
priation for printing,
etc., revised edition.

For printing and binding a revised edition of the postal laws and regulations, consisting of one hundred thousand copies, such edition to be prepared under the direction of the Postmaster-General and printed at the Government Printing Office; and the Postmaster-General may

authorize the sale of copies of such edition not needed for the use of the Department to individuals at the cost thereof and ten per centum added, the proceeds of such sales to be deposited in the Treasury as part of the postal revenues, thirty-nine thousand eight hundred and sixty-two dollars: *Provided*, That no part of this appropriation shall be used for the purpose of compiling the above publication.

Proviso.
Not available for compilation.

OFFICE OF THE FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

First Assistant
Postmaster-General.

For compensation to postmasters, sixteen million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Postmasters.

For compensation to clerks in post-offices, eleven million one hundred thousand dollars: *Provided*, That the Postmaster-General be, and he is hereby, authorized to employ substitutes in the place of clerks subpoenaed as witnesses in the United States courts in cases arising under the United States laws, and to expend for the employment of such substitutes a sum equal to the compensation allowed the clerks during the time actually absent from duty attending court.

Clerks.

Proviso.
Substitutes for clerks acting as witnesses.

For rent, light, and fuel for first, second, and third class post-offices, one million seven hundred thousand dollars: *Provided*, That there shall not be allowed for the use of any third-class post-office for rent a sum in excess of four hundred dollars, nor more than sixty dollars for fuel and lights, in any one year: *And provided further*, That the Postmaster-General may, in the disbursement of this appropriation, apply a part thereof to the purpose of leasing premises for the use of post-offices of the first, second, and third classes at a reasonable annual rental, to be paid quarterly for a term not exceeding ten years.

Rent, light, and fuel.

Proviso.
Limit, third-class offices.

Lease of premises for first, second, and third class offices.

For necessary miscellaneous and incidental items directly connected with first and second class post-offices, including furniture, one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars: *Provided*, That the Postmaster-General, in his discretion, under such regulations as he shall prescribe, may authorize any of the postmasters of said offices to expend the fund he may allow them for such purposes without the written consent of the Postmaster-General.

Miscellaneous.

Proviso.
Expenditures without consent of Postmaster-General.

For advertising at first and second class post-offices, twenty thousand dollars.

Advertising.

FREE-DELIVERY SERVICE: For pay of letter carriers in offices already established, and for substitute letter carriers and for temporary carriers at summer resorts, holiday and election service, thirteen million eighty-five thousand four hundred dollars.

Free delivery.

Letter carriers.

For pay of letter carriers in new offices entitled to free-delivery service under existing law, fifty thousand dollars.

—new offices.

For horse-hire allowance, three hundred and eighty thousand dollars.

Horse hire.

For car fare and bicycle allowance, one hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars.

Car fare, etc.

For incidental expenses, including twelve mechanics in the six largest cities, exclusively employed in repairing boxes and locks, and erecting boxes, planting posts and pedestals, at nine hundred dollars per annum; letter boxes, package boxes, posts, satchels, repairs, marine free delivery service at Detroit, one hundred thousand dollars; in all, thirteen million eight hundred thousand four hundred dollars: *Provided*, That ten per centum of the foregoing amounts for free-delivery service may be available interchangeably for expenditure on the objects named, but no one item of appropriation shall thereby be increased more than ten per centum.

Incidentals.

Proviso.
Interchangeable expenditures.

For experimental rural free delivery, including pay of carriers, horse-hire allowance, supplies, and mechanical appliances, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Rural free delivery.

For stationery in post-offices, fifty-five thousand dollars.

Stationery.

For wrapping twine, ninety thousand dollars.

Twine.

For wrapping paper, forty-five thousand dollars.

Paper.

For letter balances, scales, and test weights, and repairs to same, seven thousand five hundred dollars.

Scales.

Canceling, etc., stamps.	For postmarking and rating stamps, and repairs to same, and ink and pads for stamping and canceling purposes, twenty-seven thousand dollars.
Packing boxes, etc.	For packing boxes, sawdust, paste, and hardware, one thousand dollars.
Printing.	For printing facing slips and cutting same, card slide labels, blanks, and books of an urgent nature for the postal service, twenty thousand dollars.
Canceling machines.	For rental or purchase of canceling machines, one hundred thousand dollars.
Books, etc.	Blanks, blank books, and printed matter for the money-order service, one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.
Money-order stamps, etc.	Stamps and articles pertaining thereto, and metal cutters, for the money-order service, two thousand five hundred dollars.
Stationery.	Stationery and necessary miscellaneous and incidental expenses for the money-order service, seven thousand dollars.
Temporary post-offices at camps.	For the establishment and maintenance during the existing war, in the discretion of the Postmaster-General, of temporary post-offices at military posts or camps for the purpose of supplying the officers and troops there encamped with mails, the location of any such post-office to be changed to any other post or camp, in the discretion of the Postmaster-General, fifty thousand dollars.

Second Assistant
Postmaster-General.

OFFICE OF THE SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

Inland mail transportation. Star routes.	For inland mail transportation, namely: Inland transportation by star routes, including temporary service to newly established offices, five million and ninety-five thousand dollars.
Steamboat routes.	For inland transportation by steamboat routes, four hundred and fifty thousand dollars.
Messenger service.	For mail-messenger service, nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars.
Pneumatic tubes, etc.	For transportation of mail by pneumatic tube or other similar devices, by purchase or otherwise, two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars: <i>Provided</i> , That no part of this appropriation shall be used in extending such pneumatic service beyond the service for which contracts already are entered into, and no additional contracts shall be made unless hereafter authorized by law.
<i>Proviso.</i> Limitation.	
Wagon, etc., service.	For regulation, screen, or other wagon service, seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars.
Bags, catchers, etc.	For mail bags and mail-bag catchers, cord fasteners, label cases, and for labor and material necessary for repairing equipment, two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars.
Locks, keys, etc.	For mail locks and keys, chains, tools, and machinery, and for labor and material necessary for repairing same, forty-eight thousand dollars.
Repair shop.	For rent of building for a mail-bag repair shop and lock-repair shop, and for fuel, gas, watchmen and charwoman, oil, and repair of machinery for said shops, eight thousand five hundred dollars.
Railroad routes.	For inland transportation by railroad routes, of which a sum not exceeding thirty thousand dollars may be employed to pay freight on postal cards, stamped envelopes, and stamped paper, and other supplies from the manufactories to the post-offices and depots of distribution, thirty million five hundred thousand dollars: <i>Provided</i> , That any person or persons who shall place or cause to be placed any matter in the mails during the regular weighing period, for the purpose of increasing the weight of the mails with intent to cause an increase in the compensation of the railroad mail carrier over whose route such mail matter may pass, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, on conviction thereof, be fined not less than five hundred dollars nor more than twenty thousand dollars, and shall be imprisoned at hard labor not less than thirty days nor more than five years.
<i>Proviso.</i> Fraudulent increase of weight of mails.	
Post-office cars.	For railway post-office car service, four million dollars.
Railway mail clerks.	For railway post-office clerks, eight million four hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, of which sum not to exceed fifteen thousand dol-

lars may be used to pay necessary traveling expenses of chief clerks and railway postal clerks traveling on duty under order of the Postmaster-General.

For inland transportation of mail by electric and cable cars, three hundred thousand dollars: *Provided*, That the rate of compensation to be paid per mile shall not exceed the rate now paid to companies performing said service.

Electric and cable car service.
Proviso.
Present rates to continue.

For necessary and special facilities on trunk lines from New York and Washington, to Atlanta and New Orleans, one hundred and seventy-one thousand two hundred and thirty-eight dollars and seventy-five cents: *Provided*, That no part of the appropriation made by this paragraph shall be expended unless the Postmaster-General shall deem such expenditure necessary in order to promote the interest of the postal service.

Special facilities.

Provisos.
Condition.

For continuing necessary and special facilities on trunk lines from Kansas City, Missouri, to Newton, Kansas, twenty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary: *Provided*, That no part of this appropriation shall be expended unless the Postmaster-General shall deem such expenditure necessary in order to promote the interest of the postal service.

All railway companies carrying mail may furnish free transportation on the line of their respective roads to railway mail clerks.

Free transportation to clerks.

For miscellaneous items, including railway guides, city directories, and other books and periodicals necessary in connection with mail transportation, one thousand dollars.

Miscellaneous.

For transportation of foreign mails, one million eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars, including additional compensation to the Oceanic Steamship Company for transporting the mails by its steamers sailing from San Francisco to New Zealand and New South Wales by way of Honolulu, all mails made up in the United States destined for the Hawaiian Islands, the Australian colonies, New Caledonia, and the islands in the Pacific Ocean, eighty thousand dollars: *Provided*, That the sum paid the said Oceanic Steamship Company shall not exceed two dollars per mile, as authorized by Act of March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, entitled "An Act to provide for ocean mail service between the United States and foreign ports, and to promote commerce:" *And provided further*, That hereafter the Postmaster-General shall be authorized to expend such sums as may be necessary, not exceeding fifty-five thousand dollars, to cover one-half of the cost of transportation, compensation, and expense of clerks to be employed in assorting and pouching mails in transit on steamships between the United States and other postal administrations in the International Postal Union; and not exceeding forty thousand dollars for transferring the foreign mail from incoming steamships in New York Bay to the several steamship and railway piers, and between the steamship piers in New York City and Jersey City and the post-office and railroad stations.

Foreign mails.
Oceanic Steamship Company.

Provisos.
Limit.

Vol. 26, p. 832.

Clerks on steamers.

Transfers at New York.

For balances due foreign countries, one hundred and forty-two thousand dollars.

Balances due foreign countries.

OFFICE OF THE THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

For manufacture of adhesive postage and special-delivery stamps, one hundred and seventy-eight thousand dollars: *Provided*, That after the thirtieth day of June, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, the use of newspaper and periodical stamps may be discontinued; and all postage on second-class matter mailed shall be collected and accounted for under such regulations as the Postmaster-General may prescribe: *And provided further*, That this shall in no manner be construed so as to repeal the present law requiring prepayment of postage upon second-class mail matter: *And provided further*, That hereafter the Vice-President, Members and Members-elect of and Delegates and Delegates-elect to Congress shall have the privilege of sending free through the mails, and under their frank, any mail matter to any Government

Stamps.
Provisos.
Newspaper and periodical stamps discontinued, etc.

Prepayment second-class matter not affected.
Vol. 20, p. 359.

Franking privilege.
Weight limit on correspondence extended.
Vol. 28, p. 622.

	official or to any person, correspondence, not exceeding two ounces in weight, upon official or departmental business.
Distribution of stamps.	For pay of agents and assistants to distribute stamps, and expenses of agency, twelve thousand dollars.
Stamped envelopes, etc.	For manufacture of stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers, eight hundred thousand dollars.
—distribution.	For pay of agents and assistants to distribute stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers, and expenses of agency, seventeen thousand eight hundred dollars.
Postal cards.	For manufacture of postal cards, one hundred and forty-three thousand dollars.
—distribution.	For pay of agent and assistants to distribute postal cards, and expenses of agency, seven thousand dollars.
Official, etc., envelopes.	For registered-package, tag, official, and dead-letter envelopes, one hundred thousand dollars.
Ship, etc., letters.	For ship, steamboat, and way letters, one thousand dollars.
Indemnity for loss of registered matter. Vol. 29, p. 593.	For payment of limited indemnity for the loss of pieces of first-class registered matter, as provided for in the Act of Congress, approved February twenty-seventh, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, entitled "An Act to amend the postal laws providing limited indemnity for loss of registered mail matter," six thousand dollars.
Miscellaneous.	For miscellaneous items, five hundred dollars.
Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General.	OFFICE OF THE FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.
Mail depredations.	For mail depredations and post office inspectors, including salaries of inspectors and clerks, and for per diem allowance to inspectors in the field while actually traveling on business of the Department, four hundred and thirty thousand dollars.
Rewards.	For payment of rewards for the detection, arrest, and conviction of post-office burglars, robbers, and highway mail robbers, twenty-five thousand dollars.
R. S., sec. 3948, p. 766, amended.	SEC. 2. Section thirty-nine hundred and forty-eight of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended so as to read as follows:
Destruction authorized of unaccepted proposals for carrying the mails.	"SEC. 3948. The Postmaster-General shall have recorded, in a book to be kept for that purpose, a true and faithful abstract of all proposals made to him for carrying the mail, giving the name of the party offering, the terms of the offer, the sum to be paid, and the time the contract is to continue; and he shall put on file and preserve the originals of all such proposals until the end of the contract term to which they relate, after which the proposals that were not accepted may be destroyed or disposed of as waste paper.
—of certain other papers.	"The reports of the arrivals and departures of the mails on mail routes made and sent by postmasters to the Second Assistant Postmaster-General, on which no fines or deductions from the pay of contractors for carrying the mails have been based, and the certificates of oaths taken by carriers on mail routes may be disposed of as waste paper after the expiration of one year from the end of the contract term to which they relate."
Requirement of bonds from assistant postmasters, etc.	SEC. 3. That assistant postmasters and cashiers at first, second, and third class post-offices, and when deemed necessary by the Postmaster-General for the better protection of the interests of the Government any other employees in such offices, shall, before entering upon the duties of their office give bond to the United States with good and approved security, and in such penalty as the Postmaster-General shall prescribe, conditioned for the faithful discharge of all duties and trusts imposed upon them either by law or the rules and regulations of the Post-Office Department.
Return to sender of second, third, and fourth class matter only when prepaid. <i>Proviso.</i> —exception.	SEC. 4. That second, third, and fourth class mail matter shall not be returned to sender or re-mailed until the postage has been fully prepaid on the same: <i>Provided</i> , That in all cases where undelivered matter of these classes is of obvious value, the sender, if known, shall be notified of the fact of nondelivery, and be given the opportunity of prepaying the return postage.

SEC. 5. That a commission consisting of the chairmen of the Committees on Post-Offices and Post-Roads of the Senate and House of Representatives, and three members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and three members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker, is hereby created to investigate the question whether or not excessive prices are paid to the railroad companies for the transportation of the mails and as compensation for postal-car service, and all sources of revenue and all expenditures of the postal service, and rates of postage upon all postal matter.

Congressional commission to investigate postal expenditures, etc.
Post, p. 966.

Said commission is authorized to employ experts to aid in the work of inquiry and examination; also to employ a clerk and stenographer and such other clerical assistance as may be necessary, said experts and clerks to be paid such compensation as the said commission may deem just and reasonable.

Clerks, etc.

The Postmaster-General shall detail, from time to time, such officers and employees as may be requested by said commission in its investigation.

Detail of postal employees.

For the purposes of the investigation, said commission is authorized to send for persons and papers, and, through the chairman of the commission or the chairman of any subcommittee thereof, to administer oaths and to examine witnesses and papers respecting all matters pertaining to the duties of said commission, and to sit during the recess of Congress.

Powers of commission.

Said commission shall, on or before February first, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, make report to Congress, which report shall embrace the testimony and evidence taken in the course of the investigation, also the conclusions reached by said commission on the several subjects examined, and any recommendations said commission may see proper to make by bill or otherwise with the view of correcting any abuses or deficiencies that may be found to exist.

Report.

The sum of twenty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to pay the necessary expenses of said commission, such payments to be made on the certificate of the chairman of said commission.

Appropriation for expenses.

Any vacancy occurring in the membership of said commission, by resignation or otherwise, shall be filled by the presiding officer of the Senate or House, respectively, according as the vacancy occurs in the Senate or House representation on said committee.

Vacancies, how filled.

SEC. 6. That if the revenues of the Post-Office Department shall be insufficient to meet the appropriations made by this Act, a sum equal to 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 said deficiencies in the revenues for the Post-Office Department for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine.

Appropriation for deficiencies in revenues.

Approved, June 13, 1898.

CHAP. 447.—An Act To authorize the extension eastwardly of the Columbia Railway.

June 13, 1898.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Columbia Railway Company, incorporated under an Act of Congress approved May twenty-fourth, eighteen hundred and seventy, be, and it is hereby, authorized to extend its lines and to locate, construct, equip, and maintain and operate a single or double track railway, and all necessary depots, stations, sidings, switches, and turn-outs, and to run cars thereon propelled by cable, electric, compressed air, or other mechan-

District of Columbia. Extension of lines of Columbia Railway. Vol. 16, p. 133.