The Huntingdon Journal.

VOL. 47. HUNTINGDON, PA., OCTOBER 23, 1872. NO. 42.

The Huntingdon Journal.

J. R. DURBORROW, - - - J. A. NASH,
PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.

Office on the Corner of Fifth and Washington streets.

THE HUNTINGDON JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by J. R. DURBORROW and J. A. NASH, under the firm name of J. R. DURBORROW & Co., at $2,00 per annum, IN ADVANCE, or $2,50 if not paid for in six months from date of subscription, and $3 if not paid within the year.

No paper discontinued, unless at the option of the publishers, until all arrearages are paid.

Regular monthly and yearly advertisements will be inserted at the following rates:

	3 m	6 m	9 m	1 y		3 m	6 m	9 m	1 y
1 Inch	2 50	4 00	5 00	6 00	¼ col	9 00	18 00	$ 27	$ 36
2 "	4 00	8 00	10 00	12 00	½ "	24 00	36 00	50	65
3 "	6 00	10 00	14 00	18 00	¾ "	34 00	50 00	65	80
4 "	8 00	14 00	20 00	24 00					
5 "	9 50	18 00	25 00	30 00	1 col	36 00	60 00	80	100

Special notices will be inserted at TWELVE AND A HALF CENTS per line, and local and editorial notices at FIFTEEN CENTS per line.

All Resolutions of Associations, Communications of limited or individual interest, and notices of Marriages and Deaths, exceeding five lines, will be charged TEN CENTS per line.

Legal and other notices will be charged to the party having them inserted.

Advertising Agents must find their commission outside of these figures.

All advertising accounts are due and collectable when the advertisement is once inserted.

JOB PRINTING of every kind, in Plain and Fancy Colors, done with neatness and dispatch.—Hand-bills, Blanks, Cards, Pamphlets, &c., of every variety and style, printed at the shortest notice, and every thing in the Printing line will be executed in the most artistic manner and at the lowest rates.

Professional Cards.

B. F. GEHRETT, M. D., *ECLECTIC PHYCICIAN AND SURGEON*, having returned from Clearfield county and permanently located in Shirleysburg, offers his professional services to the people of that place and surrounding country. apr.3-1872.

DR. H. W. BUCHANAN,
DENTIST,
No. 223 Hill Street, HUNTINGDON, PA.
July 3, '72.

DR. F. O. ALLEMAN can be consulted at his office, at all hours, Mapleton, Pa. [march6,72.

D. CALDWELL, Attorney-at-Law, No. 111, 3d street. Office formerly occupied by Messrs. Woods & Williamson. [ap12,'71.

DR. A. B. BRUMBAUGH, offers his professional services to the community. Office, No. 523 Washington street, one door east of the Catholic Parsonage. [jan.4,'71.

E. J. GREENE, Dentist. Office removed to Leister's new building, Hill street Huntingdon. [jan.4,'71.

G. L. ROBB, Dentist, office in S. T. Brown's new building, No. 520, Hill St., Huntingdon, Pa. [ap12,'71.

H. GLAZIER, Notary Public, corner of Washington and Smith streets, Huntingdon, Pa. [jan.12'71.

H. C. MADDEN, Attorney-at-Law Office, No. —, Hill street, Huntingdon, Pa. [ap.19,'71.

J. FRANKLIN SCHOCK, Attorney-at-Law, HUNTINGDON, PA. june26,'72-6m,

J. SYLVANUS BLAIR, Attorney-at-Law, Huntingdon, Pa. Office, Hill street, three doors west of Smith. [jan.4'71.

J. R. PATTON, Druggist and Apothecary, opposite the Exchange Hotel, Huntingdon, Pa. Prescriptions accurately compounded. Pure Liquors for Medicinal purposes. [nov.23,'70.

J. HALL MUSSER, Attorney-at-Law, No. 319 Hill st., Huntingdon, Pa. [jan.4,'71.

J. R. DURBORROW, Attorney-at-Law, Huntingdon, Pa., will practice in the several Courts of Huntingdon county. Particular attention given to the settlement of estates of decedents.
Office in he JOURNAL Building. [feb.1,'71.

J. W. MATTERN, Attorney-at-Law and General Claim Agent, Huntingdon, Pa., Soldiers' claims against the Government for back pay, bounty, widows' and invalid pensions attended to with great care and promptness.
Office on Hill street. [jan.4,'71.

K. ALLEN LOVELL, Attorney-at-Law, Huntingdon, Pa. Special attention given to COLLECTIONS of all kinds; to the settlement of Estates, &c.; and all other Legal Business prosecuted with fidelity and dispatch.
☞ Office in room lately occupied by R. Milton Speer, Esq. [jan.4,'71.

MILES ZENTMYER, Attorney-at-Law, Huntingdon, Pa., will attend promptly to all legal business. Office in Cunningham's new building. [jan.4,'71.

P. M. & M. S. LYTLE, Attorneys-at-Law, Huntingdon, Pa., will attend to all kinds of legal business entrusted to their care.
Office on the south side of Hill street, fourth door west of Smith. [jan.4,'71.

R. A. ORBISON, Attorney-at-Law, Office, 321 Hill street, Huntingdon, Pa. [may31,'71.

JOHN SCOTT. S. T. BROWN. J. M. BAILEY
SCOTT, BROWN & BAILEY, Attorneys-at-Law, Huntingdon, Pa. Pensions, and all claims of soldiers and soldiers' heirs against the Government will be promptly prosecuted.
Office on Hill street. [jan.4,'71.

T. W. MYTON, Attorney-at-Law, Huntingdon, Pa. Office with J. Sewell Stewart, Esq. [jan.4,'71.

WILLIAM A. FLEMING, Attorney-at-Law, Huntingdon, Pa. Special attention given to collections, and all other legal business attended to with care and promptness. Office, No. 229, Hill street. [ap19,'71.

Hotels.

MORRISON HOUSE,
OPPOSITE PENNSYLVANIA R. R. DEPOT
HUNTINGDON, PA.
J. H. CLOVER, Prop.
April 5, 1871-1y.

WASHINGTON HOTEL,
S. S. BOWDON, Prop'r.
Corner of Pitt & Juliana Sts., Bedford, Pa. may1.

EXCHANGE HOTEL, Huntingdon, Pa. JOHN S. MILLER, Proprietor.
January 4, 1871.

Miscellaneous.

E. BARTOL. | A. KENNEDY. | J. MARCH. | DAVID MINGLE
BARTOL, KENNEDY & CO.
[*Lately Franklin Manufacturing Company.*]
Manufactures Flooring, Siding, Doors, Sash, Shutters, Blinds, Moulding, Scroll Work, Counters, Shelving, Wood Turnings, Hubbs, Spokes, Bent Work, Forks, Rakes, Brooms, Pick, and Hammer Handles, all kinds of Furniture, &c. Our Machinery the very best quality and giving our entire being of attention to the business we are able to manufacture all of the aboved named articles, as well as many others, in the best style and always promptly.
All orders addressed to
BARTOL, KENNEDY & CO.,
Huntingdon, Pa.,
will receive our immediate attention. Price list furnished when desired.
Lumber taken in exchange for all kinds of work.
Jan. 31, 1871.

R. A. BECK, Fashionable Barber and Hairdresser, Hill street, opposite the Franklin House. All kinds of Tonics and Pomades kept onhand and for sale. [ap19,'71-6m

[OFFICIAL.]

LAWS
OF THE
UNITED STATES
PASSED AT THE
FIRST SESSION OF THE FORTY-SECOND CONGRESS.

[GENERAL NATURE—No. 118.]

SEC. 192. That the compensation for publishing the list of non-delivered letters shall in no case exceed one cent for each letter published.

SEC. 193. That all letters published as non delivered shall be charged with one cent in addition to the regular postage, to be accounted for as part of the postal revenue.

SEC. 194. That the Postmaster General may regulate the period during which undelivered letters shall remain in any post-office, and when they shall be returned to the dead letter office; and he may make regulations for their return from the dead-letter office to the writers, when they cannot be delivered to the parties addressed.

SEC. 195. That all domestic letters, deposited in any post-office for mailing, on which the postage is wholly unpaid or paid less than one full rate as required by law, except letters lawfully free, and duly certified letters of soldiers, sailors, and-marines in the service of the United States, shall be sent by the postmaster to the dead-letter office in Washington: *Provided*, That in large cities and adjacent districts of dense population having two or more post offices within a distance of three miles of each other, any letter mailed at one of such offices, which shall have been inadvertently prepaid at the drop or local letter rate of postage only, may be forwarded to its destination through the proper office, charged with the amount of the deficient postage, to be collected on delivery.

SEC. 196. That dead letters containing valuable inclosures shall be registered in the dead letter office; and when they cannot be delivered to the party addressed nor to the writer, the contents thereof shall be disposed of, and a careful account shall be kept of the amount realized in each case, which shall be subject to reclamation by either the party addressed or the sender, for four years from the registry thereof; and all other letters of value or of importance to the party addressed or to the writer, and which cannot be returned to either, shall be disposed of as the Postmaster General may direct.

SEC. 197. That the action of the postoffice department respecting foreign dead letters shall be subject to conventional stipulations with the respective foreign administrations.

SEC. 198. That when the writer of any letter on which the postage is prepaid shall indorse upon the outside thereof his name and address, such letter shall not be advertised, but after remaining uncalled for at the office to which it is directed thirty days, or the time the writer may direct, shall be returned to him without additional charge for postage, and if not then delivered shall be treated as a dead letter.

SEC. 199. That prepaid and free letters shall be forwarded from one postofficeto another, at the request of the party addressed, without additional charge for postage.

SEC. 200. That all the waters of the United States shall be post roads during the time the mail is carried thereon, as provided in section two hundred and nineteen.

SEC. 201. That all railways and parts of railways which are now or hereafter may be put in operation are hereby declared to be post roads.

SEC. 202. That all canals during the time the mail is carried thereon are hereby declared to be post roads.

SEC. 203. That all plank roads during the time the mail is carried thereon are hereby declared to be post roads.

SEC. 204. That the road on which the mail is carried to supply any court house which may be without a mail, as provided in section two hundred and sixteen, and the road on which the mail is carried, under section two hundred and twenty-one, providing for extending the line of posts, shall, during the time such mail is carried thereon, be post roads.

SEC. 205. That all letter carrier routes established in any city or town, for the collection and delivery of mail matter by carriers, are hereby declared to be post roads.

SEC. 206. That when there is more than one road between places designated by law for a post road, the Postmaster General may direct which shall be considered the post road.

SEC. 207. That the Postmaster General may change the terminus of post roads connecting with or intersecting railways when the service can be thereby improved.

SEC. 208. That whenever, in the opinion of the Postmaster General, the postal service cannot be safely continued, the revenues collected, or the laws maintained on any post road, he may discontinue the service on such road or any part thereof until the same can be safely restored.

SEC. 209. That the Postmaster General may, when he deems it advisable, contract for the transportation of the mails to and from any post office; but where such service is performed over a route not established by law, it shall be his duty to report the same to Congress at its meeting next thereafter, and said service shall cease at the end of the next session of Congress, unless said route is established a post route by Congress.

SEC. 210. That the Postmaster General shall arrange the railway routes on which the mail is carried, including those in which the service is partly by railway and partly by steamboat, into three classes, according to the size of the mails, the speed at which they are carried, and the frequency and importance of the service, so that each railway company shall receive, as far as practicable, a proportionate and just rate of compensation, according to the service performed.

SEC. 211. That the pay for carrying the mail on any railway of the first class shall not exceed three hundred dollars per mile per annum; on any railway of the second class it shall not exceed one hundred dollars per mile per annum; and on any railway of the third class it shall not exceed fifty dollars per mile per annum; but if one-half the service on any railway is required to be performed in the night time, the Postmaster General may pay twenty five per centum in addition to the above maximum rates.

SEC. 212. That if the Postmaster General is unable to contract for carrying the mail on any railway route at a compensation not exceeding the maximum rates herein provided, or for what he may deem a reasonable and fair compensation, he may separate the letter mail from the other mail, and contract, either with or without advertising, for carrying such letter mail by horse express or otherwise, at the greatest speed that can reasonably be obtained, and for carrying the other mail in wagons, or otherwise, at a slower rate of speed.

SEC. 213. That every railway company carrying the mail shall carry on any train which may run over its road, and without extra charge therefor, all mailable matter directed to be carried thereon, with the person in charge of the same.

SEC. 214. That all railway companies to which the United States have furnished aid by grant of lands, right of way, or otherwise, shall carry the mail at such prices as Congress may by law provide; and, until such price is fixed by law, the Postmaster General may fix the rate of compensation.

SEC. 215. That the Postmaster General shall provide for carrying the mail on all post roads established by law, as often as he, having due regard to productiveness and other circumstances, may think proper.

SEC. 216. That the Postmaster General shall cause a mail to be carried from the nearest postoffice on any established post road to the court house of any county in the United States which is without a mail.

SEC. 217. That the Postmaster General may contract for carrying the mail on the navigable canals of the several States, when, in his opinion, the public interest or convenience requires it.

SEC. 218. That the Postmaster General may contract for carrying the mail on any plank road in the United States, when the public interest or convenience requires it.

SEC. 219. That the Postmaster General may cause the mail to be carried in any steamboat or other vessel used as a packet on any of the waters of the United States.

SEC. 220. That the Postmaster General may, if he deem it for the public interest, make contracts for any period not exceeding one year, for carrying the mail in steamships between any of the ports of the United States.

SEC. 221. That the Postmaster General may enter into contracts for extending the line of posts to supply mails to postoffices not on any established route, and, as a compensation for carrying the mail under such contracts, may allow not exceeding two-thirds of the salary paid to the postmaster at such special offices.

SEC. 222. That the master of any vessel of the United States, bound from any port there in to any foreign port, or from any foreign port to any port of the United States, shall, before clearance, receive on board and securely convey all such mails as the postoffice department, or any diplomatic or consular officer of the United States abroad, shall offer; and he shall promptly deliver the same, on arriving at the port of destination, to the proper officer, for which he shall receive two cents for every letter so delivered; and upon the entry of every such vessel returning from any foreign port, the master thereof shall make oath or affirmation that he has promptly delivered all the mail placed on board said vessel before clearance from the United States; and if he shall fail to make such oath or affirmation, the said vessel shall not be entitled to the privileges of a vessel of the United States.

SEC. 223. That the master of any steamboat passing between ports or places in the United States, and arriving at any such port or place where there is a postoffice, shall deliver to the postmaster, within three hours after his arrival, if in the day time, and if at night, within two hours after the next sunrise, all letters and packets brought by him, or within his power or control and not relating to the cargo, addressed to or destined for such port or place, for which he shall receive from the postmaster two cents for each letter or packet so delivered, unless the same is carried under a contract for carrying the mail; and for every failure to so deliver such letters and packets, the master or owner of said steamboat shall forfeit and pay one hundred and fifty dollars.

SEC. 224. That the Postmaster General may pay, to the master or owner of any vessel not regularly employed in carrying the mail, two cents for each letter carried by such vessel between ports or places in the United States, or from any foreign port to any port in the United States; but all such letters shall be deposited in the postoffice at the port of arrival.

SEC. 225. That any person who shall paint, print, or in any manner place upon or attach to any steamboat or other vessel, or any stage coach or other vehicle, not actually used in carrying the mail, the "United States mail," or any words, letters, or characters of like import; any person who shall give notice, by publishing in any newspaper or otherwise, that any steamboat or other vessel, or any stage coach or other vehicle, is used in carrying the mail, when the same is not actually so used, every person so offending, or wilfully aiding or abetting therein, shall, on conviction thereof, for every such offense, forfeit and pay not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars.

SEC. 226. That every route agent, postal clerk, or other carrier of the mail shall receive any mail matter presented to him, if properly prepaid by stamps, and deliver the same for mailing at the next postoffice at which he arrives; but no fees shall be allowed him therefor.

SEC. 227. That any person concerned in carrying the mail, who shall collect, receive, or carry any letter or packet, or cause or procure the same to be done, contrary to law, shall, on conviction thereof, for every such offence, forfeit and pay not exceeding fifty dollars.

SEC. 228. That no person shall establish any private express for the conveyance of letters or packets, or in any manner cause or provide for the conveyance of the same by regular trips or at stated periods, over any post route which is or may be established by law, or from any city, town, or place to any other city, town, or place between which the mail is regularly carried; and every person so offending, or aiding or assisting therein, for each offence, forfeit and pay one hundred and fifty dollars.

SEC. 229. That the owner of every stage coach, railway car, steamboat, or other vehicle or vessel, which shall, with the knowledge of any owner, in whole or in part, or with the knowledge or connivance of the driver, conductor, master, or other person having charge of the same, convey any person acting or employed as a private express for the conveyance of letters or packets, and actually in possession of the same for the purpose of conveying them contrary to the spirit, true intent, and meaning of this law, shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay one hundred and fifty dollars.

SEC. 230. That no person shall transmit by private express or other unlawful means, or deliver to any agent of such unlawful express, or deposit, or cause to be deposited, at any appointed place, for the purpose of being transmitted, any letter or packet, and for every such offence the party so offending shall forfeit and pay fifty dollars.

SEC. 231. That no stage coach, railway car, steamboat, or other vehicle or vessel which regularly performs trips at stated periods on any post route, or from any city, town, or place to any other city, town or place between which the mail is regularly carried, shall carry, otherwise than in the mail, any letters or packets, except such as relate to some part of the cargo of such steamboat or other vessel, or to some article carr ed at the same time by the same stage coach, railway car, or other vehicle, except as provided in section two hundred and thirty nine; and for every such offense the owner of the stage coach, railway car, steamboat, or other vehicle or vessel shall forfeit and pay one hundred dollars; and the driver, conductor, master, or other person having charge thereof, and not at the time owner of the whole or any part thereof, shall in like manner forfeit and pay for every such off nce fifty dollars.

SEC. 232. That no person shall carry any letter or packet on board any vessel which carries the mail otherwise than in such mail, except as provided in section two hundred and thirty-nine; and for every such offence the party offending shall forfeit and pay fifty dollars.

SEC. 233. That no vessel departing from the United States for any foreign port shall receive on board or convey any letter or packet originating in the United States which has not been regularly received from the postoffice at the port of departure, and which does not relate to the cargo of said vessel, except as provided in section two hundred and thirty nine; and every collector, or other officer of the port empowered to grant clearances, shall require from the master of said vessel, as a condition of clearance, an oath or affirmation that he has not received on board, has not under his care or control, and will not receive or convey any letter or packet contrary to the provisions of this section.

SEC. 234. That no vessel arriving within any port or collection district of the United States shall be allowed to make entry or break bulk until all letters on board are delivered at the nearest post office, and the master thereof has signed and sworn to the following declaration, before the collector or other proper customs officer:

"I, A. B., master of the ——, arriving from ——, and now lying in the port of ——, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have, to the best of my knowledge and belief, delivered, at the post office at ———, every letter, and every bag, packet or parcel of letters, which were on board the said vessel during her last voyage, or which were in my possession or under my power or control:"

And any master who shall break bulk before he has delivered such letters shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit not exceeding one hundred dollars for every such offense, one-half to the officer making the seizure, and the other to the use of the United States.

SEC. 235. That any special agent of the Post Office Department, when instructed by the postmaster general to make examinations and seizures, and the collector or other customs officer of any port without special instructions shall carefully search all vessels for letters which may be on board or which have been conveyed contrary to law.

SEC. 236. That any special agent of the post office department, collector, or other customs officer, or United States marshal or his deputy may at all times seize all letters and bags, packets or parcels, containing letters which are being carried contrary to law on board any vessel or on any post route, and convey the same to the nearest post office, or may, by the direction of the postmaster general or secretary of the treasury, detain them until two months after the final determination of all suits and proceedings which may, at any time within six months after such seizure, be brot' against any person for sending or carrying such letters.

SEC. 237. That every package or parcel seized by any special agent of the post office department, collector, or other customs officer, or United States marshal or his deputies, in which any letter is unlawfully concealed, shall be forfeited to the United States, and the same proceedings may be had to enforce the forfeiture as are authorized in respect to goods, wares, and merchandise forfeited for violation of the revenue laws; and all laws for the benefit and protection of customs officers making seizures for violating the postal laws.

SEC. 238. That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit the conveyance or transmission of letters or packets by private hands without compensation, or by special messenger employed for the particular occasion only.

SEC. 239. That all letters inclosed in stamped envelopes (the postage stamp in every case being of a denomination sufficient to cover the postage that would be chargeable thereon if the same were sent by mail) may be sent, conveyed, and delivered otherwise than by mail, provided such envelope shall be duly directed and properly sealed, so that the letter cannot be taken therefrom without defacing the envelope, and the date of the letter or of the transmission or receipt thereof shall be written or stamped upon the envelope. But the postmaster general may suspend the operation of this section upon any mail route where the public interest may require such suspension.

SEC. 240. That when the amount of mail matter to be carried on any mail route is so great as to seriously retard the progress or endanger the security of the letter mail, or materially increase the cost of carriage at the ordinary rate of speed, the postmaster general may provide for the separate carriage of the letter mail at the usual rate of speed; but the other mail matter shall not be delayed any more than is absolutely necessary, having due regard to the cost of expedition and the means at his disposal for effecting the same.

SEC. 241. That any person who shall knowingly and willfully obstruct or retard the passage of the mail, or any carriage, horse, driver, or carrier carrying the same, shall, on conviction thereof, for every such offense, forfeit and pay not exceeding one hundred dollars.

SEC. 242. That any ferryman who shall de lay the passage of the mail by willful neglect or refusal to transport the same across any ferry shall, for every ten minutes such mail may be so delayed, forfeit and pay ten dollars.

SEC. 243. That before making any contract for carrying the mail, other than those herein after excepted, the postmaster general shall give public notice by advertising once a week for six weeks in one or more, not exceeding five, newspapers published in the State or Territory where the service is to be performed, one of which shall be published at the seat of government of such State or Territory; and such notice shall describe the route, the time at which the mail is to be made up, the time at which it is to be delivered, and the frequency of the service; and the postmaster general shall direct, by special order in each case, the newspapers in which mail lettings, or other proposals relative to the business of his Department, shall be advertised, and no publisher shall be paid for such advertisements without having been requested by the postmaster general to publish the same.

SEC. 244. That proposals for carrying the mail shall be delivered sealed, and so kept until the bidding is closed, and shall then be opened and marked in the presence of the postmaster general, and one of the Assistant Postmasters General, or of two of the Assistant Postmasters General, or of any other two officers of the Department, to be designated by the postmaster general; and any bidder may withdraw his bid at any time before twenty four hours previous to the time fixed for the opening of proposals, by serving upon the postmaster general, or the second assistant postmaster general, notice in writing of such withdrawal.

SEC. 245. That every proposal for carrying the mail shall be accompanied by a written guarantee, signed by one or more responsible persons, and undertaking that, within such time after the bid is accepted as the postmaster general may prescribe, the bidder will enter into an obligation, with good and sufficient sureties, to perform the service proposed; and no proposals shall be considered unless accompanied by such guarantee.

SEC. 246. That each bid for carrying the mail hereafter have affixed to it the oath of the bidder, taken before an officer qualified to administer oaths that he has the ability pecuniarly 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 pecuniarly 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.

SEC. 247. 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.

SEC. 248. That 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.

SEC. 249. That all contracts for carrying the mail shall be in the name of the United States, and shall be awarded to the lowest bidder tendering sufficient guarantees for faithful performance, without other reference to the mode of transportation than may be necessary to provide for the due celerity, certainty, and security thereof; but the postmaster general shall not be bound to consider the bid of any person who has wilfully or negligently failed to perform a former contract.

SEC. 250. That no contract for carrying the mail shall be made with any person who has entered, or proposed to enter, into any combination to prevent the making of any bid for carrying the mail, or who has made any agreement, or given or performed, or promised to give or perform, any consideration whatever to induce any other person not to bind for any such contract; and if any person so offending is a contractor for carrying the mail, his contract may be annulled; and for the first offense the person so offending shall be disqualified to contract for carrying the mail for five years, and for the second offense shall be forever disqualified.

SEC. 251. 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. The postmaster general may contract, without advertisement, for a period not to exceed twelve months, for the carriage of the mail on such route during the time that shall necessarily elapse between the failure of either of the accepted bidders to enter into a contract and the time when the next accepted bidder under the old or a new advertisement shall enter upon his contract; and the difference between the price proposed in the accepted bid and that paid for intermediate service shall be charged to the failing bidder or bidders, and may be recovered in the name of the United States for the use of the post office department, in an action on the case. And when the contract shall be made and concluded, the difference between the accepted bid of the failing bidders and the amount payable under the contract for the service of two years shall be forthwith charged against the failing bidder or bidders; and an action for such sum in the nature of liquidated damages shall accrue to the United States for the use of the post office department immediately upon the execution of the final contract. And both causes of action mentioned in this section may be joined in one suit.

SEC. 252. 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.

SEC. 253. That hereafter all bidders upon every mail route for the transportation of the mails upon the same, where the annual compensation for the service on such route at the time exceeds the sum of five thousand dollars, shall accompany their bids with a certified check or draft, payable to the order of the postmaster general upon some solvent national bank, which check or draft shall not be less than five per centum on the amount of the annual pay on said route at the time such bid is made; and in case of new service, not less than five per centum of the amount of one year's pay proposed in such bid, if the bid exceed five thousand dollars per annum.

SEC. 254. 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.

SEC. 255. That the postmaster general, whenever he may deem it consistent with the public interest, may accept new surety upon any contract existing or hereafter made for carrying the mails, in substitution for and release of any existing surety.

SEC. 256. That no contract for carrying the mail shall be made for a longer term than four years, and no contract for carrying the mail on the sea shall be made for a longer term than two years.

SEC. 257. That whenever, by reason of any error, omission, or other cause, any route which should properly be advertised for the regular letting is omitted, it shall be the duty of the postmaster general to advertise the same as soon as the error or omission shall be discovered, and the proposals for such route shall be opened as soon as possible after the other proposals in the same contract section; and the contract made under such supplementary advertisement shall run, as nearly as possible, from the beginning to the end of the regular contract term, and, during the time necessarily lost by reason of such error, omission, or other cause, the postmaster general shall provide for the carrying of the mail on such route at as low rate as possible, without advertising.

SEC. 258. That whenever it becomes necessary to change the terms of an existing contract for carrying the mail otherwise than as provided in sections two hundred and sixty and two hundred and sixty one, notice thereof shall be given and proceedings had thereon the same as at the letting of original contracts.

SEC. 259. That no person whose bid for carrying the mail is accepted shall receive any pay until he has executed his contract according to law and the regulations of the Department.

SEC. 260. That compensation for additional service in carrying the mail shall not be in excess of the exact proportion which the original compensation bears to the original service; and when any such additional service is ordered, the sum to be allowed therefor shall be expressed in the order, and entered upon the books of the Department: and no compensation shall be paid for any additional regular service rendered before the issuing of such order.

SEC. 261. That no extra allowance shall be made for any increase of expedition in carrying the mail unless thereby the employment of additional stock and carriers is made necessary, and in such case the additional compensation shall bear no greater proportion to the additional stock and carriers necessarily employed than the compensation in the original contract bears to the stock and carriers necessarily employed in its execution.

SEC. 262. That the Postmaster General shall deliver to the Auditor for Post office Department, within sixty days after the making of any contract for carrying the mail, a duplicate copy thereof.

SEC. 263. That the Postmaster General, after advertising for proposal, may enter into contracts or make suitable arrangements for transporting the mail through any foreign country, between any two points in the United States, and such transportation shall be by the speediest, safest, and most economical route; and all contracts therefor may be revoked whenever any new road or canal shall be opened affording a speedier, more economical, and equally safe transportation between the same points; but in case of the revocation of any such contract, a fair indemnity shall be awarded to the contractor.

SEC. 264. That the Postmaster General may contract with the owner or master of any steamboat plying upon the waters of the United States, or of any steamship or other vessel plying between ports of the United States, for carrying the mail for any length of time less than four years, and without advertising for proposals therefor, whenever the public interests and convenience will thereby be promoted; but the price paid for such shall in no case be greater than the average price paid under the last preceding or then existing regular contract on the same route.

SEC. 265. That the Postmaster General may enter into contracts for carrying the mail, with railway companies, without advertising for bids therefor; and the Postmaster General may allow any railroad company with whom he may contract for the carrying of the United States mail, and who furnish railway post office cars for the transportation of the mail, such additional compensation beyond that now allowed by law as he may think fit, not exceeding, however, fifty per centum of the said rates.

SEC. 266. That the Postmaster General may make deductions from the pay of contractors, for failures to perform service according to contract, and impose fines upon them for other delinquencies. He may deduct the price of the trip in all cases where the trip is not performed; and not exceeding three times the price if the failure be occasioned by the fault of the contractor or carrier.

SEC. 267. That the Postmaster General may, after advertising for proposals, enter into contracts for the transportation of the mail between the United States and any foreign country whenever the public interests will thereby be promoted.

SEC. 268. That the mail between the United States and any foreign port, or between ports of the United States touching at a foreign port, shall be transported in steamships; but the Postmaster General may have such transportation performed by sailing vessels when the service can be facilitated thereby.

SEC. 269. That for transporting the mail between the United States and any foreign port, or between ports of the United States touching at a foreign port, the Postmaster General may allow as compensation, if by a United States steamship, any sum not exceeding the sea and United States inland postage, and if by a foreign steamship or by a sailing vessel, any sum not exceeding the sea postage, on the mail so transported.

SEC. 270. That the Postmaster General may impose fines on contractors for transporting the mail between the United States and any foreign country, for any unreasonable or unnecessary delay in the departure of such mail, or the the performance of the trip; but the fine for any one default shall not exceed one half the contract price for the trip.

SEC. 271. That no contractor for transporting the mail within or between the United States and any foreign country shall assign or transfer his contract, and all such assignments or transfers shall be null and void.

SEC. 272. That every contract for transporting the mail between the United States and any foreign country shall contain, besides the usual stipulation for the right of the Postmaster General to discontinue the same, the further stipulation that it may be terminated by Congress

SEC. 273. That the postmaster General may, by and with the advice and consent of the President, make any arrangements which may be deemed just and expedient for allowing the mails of Canada, or any other country adjoining the United States, to be transported over the territory of the United States from one point in such country to any other point in the same, at the expense of the country to which the mail belongs, upon obtaining a like privilege for the transportation of the United States mail through the country to which the privilege is granted; but such privilege may at any time be annulled by the President or Congress from and after one month succeeding the day on which notice of the act of the President or Congress is given to the chief executive or head of the postoffice department of the country whose privilege is to be annulled.

SEC. 274. That every foreign mail shall, while being transported across the territory of the United States under the provisions of the preceding section, be deemed and taken to be a mail of the United States, so far as to make any violation thereof, or depredation thereon, or offense in respect thereto, or any part therof, an offense of the same grade, and punishable in the same manner and to the same extent as though the said mail was a mail of the United States; and in any indictment for any such offense, the said mail, or any part thereof, may be alleged to be, and on the trial of any such indictment it shall be deemed and held to be, a mail or part of a mail of the United States.

SEC. 375. That the Postmaster General or the Secretary of State is hereby authorized to empower the consuls of the United States to pay the foreign postage on such letters destined for the United States as may be detained at the ports of foreign countries for the nonpayment of postage, which postage shall be by the consul marked as paid by him, and the amount thereof shall be collected in the United States as other postage, on the delivery of the letters, and repaid to said consul, or credited on his account at the State Department.

SEC. 276. That the Postmaster General, under the direction of the President of the United States, is hereby authorized and empowered to charge upon, and collect from, all letters and other mailable matter carried to or from any port of the United States, in any foreign packetship or other vessel, the same rate or rates of charge for American postage which the government to which such foresgn packet or other vessel belongs imposes upon letters and other mailable matter conveyed to or from such foreign country in American packets or vessels as the postage of such government, and at any time to revoke the same; and it shall be the duty of all custom house officers and other United States agents designated or appointed for that purpose to enforce or carry into effect the foregoing provisions and to aid or assist in the collection of such postage; and to that end it shall be lawful for such officers and agents, on suspicion of fraud, to open and examine, in the presence of two or more respectable persons, being citizens of the United States, any package or packages supposed to contain mailable matter found on board such packets or other vessels or elsewhere, and to prevent, if necessary, such packets or other vessels from entering, breaking bulk, or making clarance until such letters or other mailable matter are duly delivered into the United States post-office.

SEC. 277. That all letters or other mailable matter conveyed to or from any part of the United States by any foreign packet or ship, except such sealed letters relating to said ship or vessel, or any part of the cargo thereof as may be directed to the owner or owners, consignee or consignees, of said ship or other vessel, shall be so subject to postage charge as aforsaid, whether addressed to any person in the United States or elsewhere, provided it is done by the packet or other ship of a foreign country imposing postage on letters or mailable matter conveyed to or from such country by any packet or other ship of the United States; and such letters or other mailable matter carried in foreign packet ships or other vessels, except such unsealed letters relating to the ship or vessel, or any part of the cargo thereof, as may be directed to the owner or owners, consignee or consignees, as aforsaid, are hereby required to be delivered into the United States post office by the master or commanders of all such packets or other vessels when arriving, and to be taken from a United States postoffice when departing, and the postage pasd thereon justly chargeable by this act; and for refusing or failing to do so, or for conveying said letters or any letters intended to be conveyed in any ship or vessel of such foreign country over or across the United States, or any portion thereof, the party offending shall, on conviction, forfeit and pay not exceeding one thousand dollars for each offense.

SEC. 278. Thrt any person who shall willfully or maliciously injure, deface, or destroy any mailmatter, deposited in any letterbox, pillarbox or other receptacle established by authority of the Postmaster General for the safe deposit of matter for the mail or for delivery, or who shall willfully aid or assist in injuring such mail matter, shall, on conviction thereof, for every such offense, forfeit and pay not more than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not more three years, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 279. That any person employed in any department of the postal service who shall secrete, embezzle, or destroy anyletter, packet, bag, or mail of letters intrtsted to him, or shall come into his possession, and which was intended to be conveyed by mail, or carried or delivered by any mail carrier, mail messenger, route-agent, letter carrier, or other person employed in any department of the postal service, or forwarded through or delivered from any postoffice established by authority of the postmaster General, and which shall contain any note, bond, draft, check, warrant, revenue-stamp, postage-stamp, stamped envelope, postal card, money order, certificate of stock, or other pecuniary obligation or security of the government, or if any officer or fiscal agent thereof, of any description whatever; any banknote, bank postbill, bill of exchange, or note of assignment of stock in the funds; any letter of attorney for receiving annuities or dividends, selling stock in the funds, or collecting the interest thereof; any letter or credit, note, bond, warrant, draft, bill, promissory note, covenant, contract, or agreement, whatsoever, for or relaling to the payment of money, or the delivery of any article of value, or the performance of any act, matter, or thing; any receipt, release, acquittance, or discharge of or from any debt, covenant, or demand, or any part thereof; any copy of the record of any judgment or decree in any court of law or chancery, or any execution which may have issued thereon; any copy of any other record, or any other article of value, or writing representing the same; any such person who shall steal or take any of the things aforsaid out of any letter, packet, bag, or mail of letters which shall have come into his possession, either in the regular course of his official duties, or in any other manner whatever, and provided the same shall not have been delivered to the party to whom it is directed, every such person shall, on conviction thereof. for every such offense; be imprisoned at hard labor not less than one nor more than five years.

SEC. 280. That the fact that any letter, packet, bag, or mail of letters shall have been deposited in any postoffice or branch postoffice established by authority of the postmaster General, or in any other authorized depository for mail matter, or in charge of an postmaster, assistant, clerk, carrier, agent, or messenger employed in any department of the postal service, shall be taken and held to be evidence that the same was "intended to be conveyed by mail" within the meaning of this statute.

SEC. 281. That any person who shall steal the mail, or steal or take from or out of any mail, or post office, branch post office, or other authorized depository for mail matter, any letter or packet; any person who shall take the mail, or any letter or packet therefrom, or from any post office, branch post office, or other authorized depository for mail matter, with or without the consent of the person having custody thereof, and open, embezzle or destroy, any such mail, letter, or package which shall contain any note, bond, draft, check, warrant, revenue stamp, postage stamp, stamped envelope, money order, certificate of stock, or other pecuniary obligation or security of the government, or of any officer or fiscal agent thereof, of any description whatever; any bank note, bank post-bill, bill of exchange, or note of assignment of stock in the funds; any letter of attorney for receiving annuities or dividends, selling stock in the funds, or collecting the interest thereof; any letter of credit, note, bond, warrant, draft, bill, promissory note, covenant, contract, or agreement whatsoever for or relating to the payment or the delivery of any article of value, or the performance of any act, matter or thing; any person who shall, by fraud or deception, obtain from any person having custody thereof, any such mail, letter or packet containing any such article of value aforesaid, every such person, not being employed in any department of the postal service shall, on conviction thereof, for every such offence, be imprisoned at hard labor not less than one nor more than five years.

SEC. 282 That any person who shall be accessory after the fact to the offense of stealing or taking any letter, postal card, or other mail matter, or any inclosure therein, or to any other offense against the postal laws, shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay not exceeding one thousand dollars, and be imprisoned not exceeding five years; and any accessory after the fact may be tried, convicted, and punished in the district in which his offense was committed, though the principal offense may have been committed in another district; and such trial, conviction, and punishment may be before that of the principal offender, when such principal offender has fled from justice or cannot be arrested to be put on trial.

SEC. 283. That any person who shall buy, receive, or conceal, or aid in buying, receiving, or concealing any note, bond, draft, check, warrant, revenue stamp, stamped envelope, postal card, money order, certificate of stock, or other pecuniary obligation or security of the government, or of any officer or fiscal agent therefore, of any description whatever; or from any person having custody thereof, every such person shall, on conviction thereof, for every such offense, forfeit and pay not exceeding two thousand dollars, and be confined at hard labor not exceeding five years; and such offender may be tried, convicted, and punished without the principal offender being first tried, when principal offender has fled from justice or cannot be found to be put on trial.

SEC. 284. That any person employed in any department of the postal service who shall improperly detain, delay, embezzle, or destroy any newspaper, or permit any other person to detain, delay, embezzle, or destroy the same, or open, or permit any other person to open, any mail or package of newspapers not directed to the office where he is employed. shall on conviction thereof, for every such offense, forfeit and pay not exceeding fifty dollars. And if any other person shall open, embezzle, or destroy any mail or package of newspapers not being directed to him, and not being authorized to open or receive the same, every such person shall on conviction thereof, for every such offense, forfeit and pay not exceeeding twenty dollars. And any person who shall take or steal any mail or package of newspapers from any postoffice, or from any person having in custody thereof, every such person shall, on conviet on thereof, for every such offense, be imprisoned at hard labor not exceeding three months.

SEC. 285. That any person who shall rob any carrier, agent, or other person entrusted with the mail, of such mail, or any part thereof, be imprisoned at hard labor not less than five nor more than ten years.

SEC. 286. That any person who shall be accessory after the fact to any robbery of the carrier, agent, or other person entrusted with the mail, of such mail, or any part thereof, shall, on conviction thereof, for every such offense, forfeit and pay not exceeding two thousand dollars, and be imprisoned at hard labor not exceeding ten years.

SEC 287 That any person who shall attempt to rob the mail by assaulting the person having custody thereof, shooting at him or his horse, or threatening him with dangerous weapons, and shall not effect such robbery, shall, on conviction thereof, be imprisoned at hard labor not less than two nor more than ten years.

SEC 288 That any person who shall have taken charge of the mail and shall voluntarily quit or desert the same before he has delivered it into the post office at the termination of the route, or to some unknown mail carrier, messenger, agent, or other employee of the Post Office Department authorized to receive the same, shall, on conviction thereof, for every such offence, forfeit and pay not exceeding five hundred dollars, and be imprisoned not less than three months nor more than one year.

SEC 289 That all laws defining punishment for depredations committed upon the mail shall extend to and have full force in the Indian country.

SEC 290 That any person who shall steal, purloin, embezzle any mail bag or other property in use by or belonging to the Post-office Department, or who shall, for any lucre, gain, or convenience, appropriate any such property to his own or any other than its proper use, or who shall, for any lucre or gain, convey away any such property to the hinderance or detriment of the public service; every such person, his aiders, abettors, and counsellors, shall, if the value of the property be twenty five dollars or more, be deemed guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof, for every such offense, shall be imprisoned not exceeding three years: and if the value of the property be less than twenty five dollars. the party offending shall be imprisoned not more than one year, or be fined not less than ten nor more than two hundred dollars.

SEC. 291, That any person who shall tear, cut, or otherwise injure any mailbag, pouch, or other thing used or designed for use in the conveyance of the mail, or who draw or break any staple, or loosen any part of any lock, chain, or strap attached thereto, with intent to rob or steal any such mail, or to render the same insecure, shall, on conviction thereof, for every such offense, forfeit and pay not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned at hard labor not less than one nor more than three years, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 292. That any person who shall steal, purloin, embezzle, or obtain by any false pretense, or shall aid or assist in stealing, purloining, embezzling, or obtaining by any false pretense, any key suited to any lock adopted by the postoffice department, and in use on any of the mails or bags thereof; any person who shall knowingly and unlawfully make, forge, or counterfeit, or cause to be unlawfully made, forged, or counterfeited, or knowingly aid or assist in making, forging, or counterfeiting, any such key; any person who shall have in his possession any such mail lock or key, with the intent unlawfully or improperly to use, sell, or otherwise dispose of the same, or to cause the same to be unlawfully or improperly used, sold, or otherwise disposed of; any person engaged as contractor or otherwise in the manufacture of any such mail locks or keys, who shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, any finished or unfinished lock or key used or designed for use by said department, or the interior part of any such lock, to any person not duly authorized, under the hand of the Postmaster General and the seal of the postoffice department, to receive the same, (unless the person receiving is the contractor for furnishing the same, or engaged in the manufacture thereof in the manner authorized by the contract, or the agent for such manufacturer,) every such person shall be deemed guilty of felony, and, on conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned not exceeding ten years.

SEC. 293. That any person who shall forcibly break into, or attempt to break into any postoffice, or any building used in whole or in part as a postoffice, with intent to commit therein larceny or other depredation, shall, on conviction thereof, be fined not more than one thousand dollars, and imprisoned at hard labor not more than five years, according to the circumstances and aggravation of the case, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 294. That if any person or persons shall falsely make, alter, forge, or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely made, altered, forged, or counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in the false making, altering, forging, or counterfeiting, any bond, bid, proposal, guarantee, security, official bond, public record, affidavit, or other writing for the purpose of defrauding the United States; or shall utter or publish as true, or cause to be uttered or published as true, any such false, forged, altered or counterfeited bond, bid, proposal, guarantee, security, official bond, public record, affidavit, or other writing, for the purpose of defrauding the United States, knowing the same to be false, forged, altered. or counterfeited; or shall transmit to, or present at, or cause to procure to be transmitted to, or presented at, the office of any officer of the United States, any such false, forged, altered, or counterfeited bond, bid, proposal, guarantee, security, official bond, public record, affidavit, or other writing, knowing the same to be false, forged, altered, or counterfeited, for the purpose of defrauding the United States, every such person shall be deemed and adjudged guilty of felony, and, being thereof duly convicted, shall be sentenced to be imprisoned, and kept at hard labor, for a period not exceeding ten years, or be fined not exceeding one thousand dollars, or both of said punishments, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 295. That if any offence shall be committed in any place which has been, or shall hereafter be, ceded to and under the jurisdiction of the United States, which offence is not prohibited, or the punishment thereof is not specially provided for by any law of the United States, such offence shall, upon conviction in any court of the United States having cognizance thereof, be liable to, and receive the same punishment as the laws of the State in which such place is or may be situated, now in force, provided for the like offence when committed within the jurisdiction of such State; and no subsequent appeal of any such State law shall affect any prosecution for such offence in any of the courts of the United States.

SEC. 296. That if any postmaster, or other person authorized by the Postmaster General to receive the postage of letters, shall fraudulently demand or receive any rate of postage, or gratuity, or reward, other than is provided by this act, for the postage of letters or packets, on conviction thereof, he shall forfeit, for every such offence, one hundred dollars.

SEC. 297. That if any person employed in any department of the postoffice establishment of the United States shall, wilfully and knowingly, use, or cause to be used, in prepayment of postage and postage stamp, postal card, or stamped envelope issued, or which may hereafter be issued, by authority of any act of Congress or of the Postmaster General, which has already been once used for a like purpose, or shall remove, or attempt to remove, the canceling or defacing marks from any such postage stamp, or stamped envelope, or postal card, with intent to use, or cause the use of the same, a second time, or to sell, or offer to sell, the same, or shall remove from letters or other mail matter deposited in or received at a postoffice the stamps attached to the same in payment of postage, with intent to use the same a second time for a like purpose, or to sell, or offer to sell, the same, every such offender shall, upon conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of felony, and shall be imprisoned for not less than one year nor more than three years.

SEC. 298. That if any person not employed in any department of the postoffice establishment of the United States shall commit any of the offenses described in the preceding section, every such person shall, on conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and be punished by imprisonment for not less than six months nor more than one year, or by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, for each offence, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 299. That the Postmaster General of the United States may empower, by a letter of authorization under his hand, to be filed among the records of his department, any special agent or other officer of the postoffice establishment to make searches for mailable matter transported in violation of law; and that the agent or officer so authorized may open and search any car or vehicle passing, or lately before having passed, from any place at which there is a postoffice of the United States to any other such place, and any box, package, or packet, being, or lately before having been, in such car or vehicle, and any store or house (other than a dwelling house) used or occupied by any common carrier or transportation company in which such box, package, or packet may be contained, whenever said agent or officer has reason to believe that mailable matter, transported contrary to law, may therein be found.

SEC. 300. That the Postmaster General may, upon evidence satisfactory to him that any person, firm, or corporation is engaged in conducting any fraudulent lottery, gift enterprise, or scheme for the distribution of money, or of any real or personal property, by lot, chance, or drawing of any kind, or in conducting any other scheme or device for obtaining money through the mails by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises, forbid the payment by any postmaster to any such person, firm, or corporation of any postal money order drawn to the order or in favor of him or of them, and may provide by regulations for the return to the remitters of the sums named in such money orders. And the Postmaster General may also, upon like evidence, instruct postmasters at any postoffices at which registered letters shall arrive directed to any such person, firm, or corporation, to return all such registered letters to the postmasters at the offices at which they were originally mailed, with the word "fraudulent" plainly written or stamped upon the outside of said letters; and all such letters so returned to such postmasters shall be by them returned to the writers thereof, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe: *Provided*, That nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to authorize any postmaster or other person to open any letter not addressed to himself.

SEC. 301. That if any person having devised or intending to devise any scheme or artifice to defraud, or be effected by either opening or intending to open correspondence or communication with any other person, (whether resident within or outside of the United States,) by means of the postoffice establishment of the United States, or by inciting such other person to open communication with the person so devising or intending, shall, in and for executing such scheme or artifice, (or attempting so to do,) place any letter or packet in any postoffice of the United States, or take or receive any therefrom, such person, so misusing the postoffice establishment, shall be guil y of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished with a fine of not more than five hundred dollars, with or without such imprisonment, as the court shall direct, not exceeding eighteen calendar months. The indictment, information, or complaint may severally charge offenses to the number of three when committed within the same six calendar months; but the court thereupon shall give a single sentence, and shall proportion the punishment especially to the degree in which the abuse of the postoffice establishment enters as an instrument into such fraudulent scheme and device.

SEC. 302. That all letters, packets, or other matter which may be seized or detained for violation of law shall be returned to the owner or sender of the same, or otherwise disposed of as the Postmaster General may direct.

SEC. 303. That all suits arising under the postal laws, or the regulations of the Postmaster General pursuant thereto, shall be instituted in the name of the United States of America, and the demands in such suits shall have all the privileges and priorities in adjudication and payment secured by law to other claims of the United States.

SEC. 304. That all causes of action arising under the postal laws may be sued, and all offenders against the same may be prosecuted, before the circuit or district courts of the United States.

SEC. 305. That all causes of action arising under the postal laws may be sued, and all offenders of the same may be prosecuted, before the justices of the peace, magistrates, or other judicial courts of the several States and Territories having competent jurisdiction by the laws thereof, to the trial of claims and demands of as great value, and of prosecutions where the punishments are of as great extent; and such justices, magistrates, or judiciary shall take cognizance thereof, and proceed to judgment and execution as in other cases.

SEC. 306. That in all suits or causes arising under the postal laws the court shall proceed to trial and render judgment the first term after commencement of suit; but whenever service of process shall not be made at least twenty days previous to the return day of such term, the defendant shall be entitled to one continuance, if on his statement the court shall deem it expedient; and if said defendant shall make affidavit that he has a claim against the Postoffice Department, which has been submitted to and disallowed by the auditor for said Department, and shall specify such claim in his affidavit, and that he could not be prepared for trial at such term for want of evidence, the court, being satisfied in these respects, may grant a continuance until the next succeding term.

SEC. 307. That no claim for a credit shall be allowed upon the trial of any suit for delinquency against a postmaster, contractor, or other officer, agent, or employee of the Postoffice Department, unless the same shall have been presented to the Auditor for said Department and by him disallowed, in whole or in part, unless it shall be proved, to the satisfaction of the court, that the defendant is at the time of trial, in possession of vouchers not before in his power to procure, and that he was prevented from exhibiting to the said Auditor a claim for such credit by some unavoidable accident.

SEC. 308. That in all suits for balance due the Postoffice Department, interest thereon shall be recovered from the time of the default until payment at the rate of six per centum per annum.

SEC. 309. That in the prosecution of any suit for money due the Postoffice Department, the United States attorney shall obey the directions which may be given him by the Department of Justice; and immediately after the end of every term of any court in which any suit has been pending, said attorney shall forward to the Department of Justice a statement of any judgment or order made, or step taken in the same, during such term, accompanied by a certificate of the clerk, showing the parties to and amount of every such judgment, with such other information as the Department of Justice may require. And the said attorney shall direct speedy and effectual execution upon said judgment, and the United States marshal to whom the same is directed shall make returns of the proceedings thereon to the Department of Justice at such times as it may direct.

SEC. 310. That when proceedings at law for money due the Postoffice Department shall be fruitless, the said department of Justice may direct the institution of a suit in chancery in any United States district or circuit court, to set aside fraudulent conveyances or trusts, or attach debts due the defendant, or obtain any proper exercise of the powers of equity to have satisfaction of any judgment against such defendant.

SEC. 311. That in case of delinquency of any postmaster, contractor, or other officer, agent, or employee of the Postoffice Department, in which suit may be brought, the Auditor for said Department shall forward to the Department of Justice certified copies of all papers in his office tending to sustain the claim.

SEC. 312. That copies of the quarterly returns of postmasters, and of any papers pertaining to the accounts, in the office of the Auditor for the Postoffice Department, and transcripts from the money order account books of said office, when certified by the Auditor under the seal of his office,

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