exceeding one year from the date of their being landed on the coast of Af-
rica, at a price in no case to exceed one hundred dollars for each person
so clothed, sheltered, and provided with food: Provided, That any contract
so made as aforesaid may be renewed by the President from time to
time as found necessary for periods not to exceed five years on each
renewal.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United
States be, and he is hereby, authorized to issue instructions to the com-
mmanders of the armed vessels of the United States, directing them when-
ever it shall be practicable, and under such rules and regulations as he
amay prescribe, to proceed directly to the coast of Africa, and there de-
liver to the agent or agents of the United States all negroes, mulattoes,
and persons of color delivered from on board vessels seized in the prosecu-
tion of the slave trade, afterwards bringing the captured vessels and per-
sons engaged in prosecuting the slave trade to the United States for trial
and adjudication.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United
States be, and he is hereby, authorized to take immediate measures in his
discretion in accordance with existing laws, and with the provisions of
the first section of this act, for removing to the coast of Africa, and there
providing with food, shelter, and clothing for a term not exceeding one
year from the date of landing in Africa the captured Africans recently
landed in the southern district of Florida, and that the sum of two hun-
dred and fifty thousand dollars be appropriated for that purpose out of
any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated by law.

APPROVED, June 16, 1860.

CHAP. CXXXVII.—An Act to facilitate Communication between the Atlantic and Pacific
States by Electric Telegraph.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the
Treasury, under the direction of the President of the United States, is
hereby authorized and directed to advertise for sealed proposals, to be
received for sixty days after the passage of this act, (and the fulfilment
of which shall be guaranteed by responsible parties, as in the case of bids
for mail contracts,) for the use by the government of a line or lines of
magnetic telegraph, to be constructed within two years from the thirty-
first day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty, from some point or points
on the west line of the State of Missouri, by any route or routes which
the said contractors may select, (connecting at such point or points by
telegraph with the cities of Washington, New Orleans, New York, Charles-
ton, Philadelphia, Boston, and other cities in the Atlantic, Southern, and
Western States,) to the city of San Francisco, in the State of California,
for a period of ten years, and shall award the contract to the lowest re-
sponsible bidder or bidders, provided such proffer does not require a
larger amount per year from the United States than forty thousand dollars;
and permission is hereby granted to the said parties to whom said contract
may be awarded, or a majority of them, and their assigns, to use until the
end of the said term, such unoccupied public lands of the United States
as may be necessary for the right of way and for the purpose of estab-
lishing stations for repairs along said line, not exceeding at any station
one quarter-section of land, such stations not to exceed one in fifteen miles
on an average of the whole distance, unless said lands shall be required
by the government of the United States for railroad or other purposes,
and provided that no right to preëm[p]t any of said lands under the laws
of the United States shall inure to said company, their agents or servants,
or to any other person or persons whatsoever: Provided, That no such
contract shall be made until the said line shall be in actual operation, and

APPROVED, June 16, 1860.
Contract not to be made until line is in operation, &c.

Lines to be open to the use of all citizens, on payment, &c.

Rates of charges.

Right granted not to be exclusive.

Branch line to Oregon.

Right of way, &c.

If government business, at usual rates, exceeds contract price, excess to be certified to Congress.

Use to be free for certain scientific purposes.

Telegrams to be impartially transmitted.

Congress may alter, &c. this act.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said contractors, or their assigns, shall have the right to construct and maintain, through any of the territories of the United States, a branch line, so as to connect their said line or lines with Oregon; and that they shall have the permanent right of way for said line or lines, under, or over, any unappropriated public lands and waters in the said territories, by any route or routes which the said contractors may select, with the free use during the said term of such lands as may be necessary for the purpose of establishing stations for repairs along said line or lines, not exceeding, at any station, one quarter-section of land, such stations not to exceed one in fifteen miles on an average of the whole distance; but should any of said quarter-sections be deemed essential by the government, or any company acting under its authority, for railroad purposes, the said contractors shall relinquish the occupancy of so much as may be necessary for the railroad, receiving an equal amount of land for like use in its stead.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That if, in any year during the continuance of the said contract, the business done for the government, as hereinbefore mentioned, by such contractors or their assigns, shall, at the ordinary rate of charges for private messages, exceed the price contracted to be paid as aforesaid, the Secretary of the Treasury shall, upon said accounts being duly authenticated, certify the amount of such excess to Congress: Provided, That the use of the line be given, at any time, free for certain scientific purposes. of cost, to the Coast Survey, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Observatory, for scientific purposes: And provided further, That messages received from any individual, company, or corporation, or from any telegraph lines connecting with this line at either of its termini, shall be impartially transmitted in the order of their reception, excepting that the dispatches of the government shall have priority: And provided further, That Congress shall at any time have the right to alter or amend this act.

APPROVED, June 16, 1860.

June 16, 1860.

CHAP. CXXXVIII.—An Act making Appropriation for the Payment of the Expenses of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of twenty-six thousand dollars, or so much thereof as has not been heretofore paid, appropriated by the act of March third, Anno Domini eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, for the payment of the expenses of the legislative assembly of the Territory of Minnesota be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be paid to the State of Minnesota.

APPROVED, June 16, 1860.