service by public advertisement for the period of sixty days in one or
more newspapers published in the cities of Washington, Baltimore, Phila-
delphia, New York, and Boston, respectively, and to contract with the
lowest responsible bidder for the same for a term of ten years, to com-
mence from the day the first steamship of the proposed line shall depart
from the United States with the mails for Brazil: Provided, That pro-
posals for monthly trips—that is to say, for twelve round voyages per
annum, out and back—are received and accepted by him within the
limit as aforesaid, from a party or parties of undoubted responsibility, pos-
sessing ample ability to furnish the steamships required for the service,
and offering good and sufficient sureties for the faithful performance of
such contract: And provided, further, That such proposals shall be
accepted by the government of Brazil, and that distinct and separate con-
tracts with each government, containing similar provisions, shall be
executed by such accepted bidder or bidders; each government to be
responsible only for its proportion of the subsidy to be paid for the
service.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That any contract which the Post-
master-General may execute under the authority of this act shall go into
effect on or before the first day of September, one thousand eight hundred
and sixty-five; and shall, in addition to the usual stipulations of ocean
mail steamship contracts, provide that the steamships offered for the ser-
vice shall be constructed of the best materials and after the most approved
model, with all the modern improvements adapted for sea-going steam-
ships of the first class; and shall, before their approval and acceptance by
the Postmaster-General, be subject to inspection and survey by an expe-
rienced naval constructor, to be detailed for that purpose by the Secretary
of the Navy, whose report shall be made to the Postmaster-General;
that the two governments shall be entitled to have transported, free of
expense, on each and every steamer, a mail-agent to take charge of and
arrange the mail matter, to whom suitable accommodations for that pur-
pose shall be assigned; that in case of failure from any cause to perform
any of the regular monthly voyages stipulated for in the contract, a pro
rata deduction shall be made from the compensation, on account of such
omitted voyage or voyages; that suitable fines and penalties may be
imposed for delays and irregularities in the regular performance of the
service according to contract; and that the Postmaster-General shall have
the power to determine the contract at any time, in case of its being
underlet or assigned to any other party.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the mail steamships employed
in the service authorized by this act shall be exempt from all port-charges
and custom-house dues at the port of departure and arrival in the United
States: Provided, That a similar immunity from port-charges and custom-
house dues is granted by the government of Brazil.

Approved, May 28, 1864.

Chap. XCIX.—An Act for the Relief of the Citizens of Denver, in the Territory of
Colorado.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of an act
of congress entitled "An act for the relief of the citizens of towns upon
the lands of the United States, under certain circumstances," approved
May twenty-third, eighteen hundred and forty-four, be so extended as to
authorize the probate judge of Arapahoe county, in the territory of Col-
rado, to enter, at the minimum price, in trust for the several use and
benefit of the rightful occupants of said land and the bona fide owners of
the improvements thereon, according to their respective interests, the fol-
lowing legal subdivisions of land, or such portions thereof as are settled
and actually occupied for town purposes by the town of Denver aforesaid,
to wit: Section number thirty-three, and the west half of section number thirty-four, in township number three south of range number sixty-eight west of the sixth principal meridian: Provided, however, That there shall be reserved from such sale and entry such blocks or lots in the town of Denver as may be necessary for government purposes, to be designated by the commissioner of the general land-office.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That in all respects, except as herein modified, the execution of the foregoing provisions shall be controlled by the provisions of said act of twenty-third May, eighteen hundred and forty-four, and the rules and regulations of the commissioner of the general land-office.

APPROVED, May 28, 1864.

CHAP. CI.—An Act to provide for the Payment of the Claims of Peruvian Citizens, under the Convention between the United States and Peru, of the twelfth of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-three. Post, p. 141.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of discharging the obligations of the United States, under the convention with Peru, of the twelfth of January last, there be paid to Stephen G. Montano, or to his legal representatives, in the current money of the United States, the sum of forty-one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two dollars and thirty-eight cents; and to Juan del Carmen Vergel, or his legal representatives, the sum of one thousand one hundred and seventy dollars, in the silver money of the United States, or its equivalent, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

APPROVED, June 1, 1864.

CHAP. CII.—An Act in Relation to Franked Matter.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all communications relating to the official business of the department to which they are addressed, of whatever origin, addressed to the chiefs of the several executive departments of the government, or to such principal officers of each executive department, being heads of bureaus or chief clerks, or one duly authorized by the Postmaster-General to frank official matter, shall be received and conveyed by mail free of postage without being endorsed "official business," or with the name of the writer.

APPROVED, June 1, 1864.

CHAP. CIII.—An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act making a Grant of Land[s] to the State of Iowa, in alternate Sections, to aid in the Construction of certain Railroads in said State," approved May fifteen, eighteen hundred and fifty-six.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad Company, a corporation established by the laws of the State of Iowa, and to which the said state granted a portion of the land-grant mentioned in the title of this act, to aid in the construction of a railroad from Davenport to Council Bluffs in said state, may modify or change the location of the uncompleted portion of its line, as shown by the map thereof now on file in the general land-office of the United States, so as to secure a better and more expeditious line for connection with the Iowa branch of the Union Pacific Railroad: Provided, nevertheless, That said new line, if located, shall in every case pass through the corporate limits of the cities of Des Moines and Council Bluffs; and the right of way over the public lands of the United States is hereby granted to said railroad company for that purpose: Provided, That said line shall pass through the town of Newton, in Jasper County or as near it, &c.