

wilfully and maliciously injure, tear down, or destroy any letter-box, pillar-box, or other receiving-boxes established by authority of the Postmaster-General of the United States for the safe deposit of matter for the mails and for delivery; or shall wilfully aid and assist in injuring, tearing down, or destroying any such box or boxes, every such offender, being thereof duly convicted, shall, for every such offence, be fined not less than one hundred, nor more than one thousand dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one year, nor more than three years, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offence. And if any clerk or other person employed in any of the departments of the post-office establishment shall wilfully and unlawfully remove from any letter posted at or received in any post-office or branch post-office, established by authority of the Postmaster-General of the United States, any postage-stamp or stamps affixed thereto in payment of postage, every such offender, being thereof duly convicted, shall, for every such offence, be fined not more than one hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than six months, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offence.

Wilful, &c., injury to letter-boxes, &c., how punished.

Penalty upon clerks, &c., in post-office, for unlawfully removing postage-stamps from letters.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the yearly advertisement for proposals to carry the mails of the United States shall be published hereafter for a period of six weeks in one or more, but not to exceed five, newspapers, printed in the state or territory where the mail service is to be performed, one of which shall be printed at the seat of government of such state or territory.

Publication of advertisements for proposals for carrying the mails.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing contained in the act entitled "An act to amend the laws relating to the Post-Office Department," approved March third, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, shall be so construed as to repeal or modify the second section of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-one," for the delivery of letters and other mail matter from post-offices where the system of free delivery by carriers has not been established: *Provided, nevertheless, and it is hereby further enacted*, That the system of free delivery shall be established in every place containing a population of fifty thousand within the delivery of the office thereof, and at such other places as the Postmaster-General in his judgment shall direct: *And provided, further*, That the prepayment postage on drop-letters in all places where free delivery is not established shall be one cent only.

Delivery of mail matter from post-offices.  
1863, ch. 71.  
Vol. xii. p. 701.

1861, ch. 131,  
§ 2.  
Vol. xii. p. 29.

System of free delivery to be established, when, &c.

Postage on drop-letters.

Obscene books, &c., not to be admitted into mails.

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That no obscene book, pamphlet, picture, print, or other publication of a vulgar and indecent character, shall be admitted into the mails of the United States; any person or persons who shall deposit or cause to be deposited, in any post-office or branch post-office of the United States, for mailing or for delivery, an obscene book, pamphlet, picture, print, or other publication, knowing the same to be of a vulgar and indecent character, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, being duly convicted thereof, shall for every such offence be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offence.

Penalty for knowingly depositing such books, &c., for mailing.

APPROVED, March 3, 1865.

CHAP. XC. — *An Act to establish a Bureau for the Relief of Freedmen and Refugees.*

March 3, 1865.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That there is hereby established in the War Department, to continue during the present war of rebellion, and for one year thereafter, a bureau of refugees, freedmen, and abandoned lands, to which shall be committed, as hereinafter provided, the supervision and management of all abandoned lands, and the control of all subjects relating to refugees and freedmen from rebel states, or from any district of country within the territory embraced in the operations of the

Bureau of refugees, freedmen, and abandoned lands.

Duty, &c., of bureau.

Commissioner.	under the management and control of a commissioner to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, whose compensation shall be three thousand dollars per annum, and such number of clerks as may be assigned to him by the Secretary of War, not exceeding one chief clerk, two of the fourth class, two of the third class, and five of the first class. And the commissioner and all persons appointed under this act, shall, before entering upon their duties, take the oath of office prescribed in an act entitled "An act to prescribe an oath of office, and for other purposes," approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and the commissioner and the chief clerk shall, before entering upon their duties, give bonds to the treasurer of the United States, the former in the sum of fifty thousand dollars, and the latter in the sum of ten thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful discharge of their duties respectively, with securities to be approved as sufficient by the Attorney-General, which bonds shall be filed in the office of the first comptroller of the treasury, to be by him put in suit for the benefit of any injured party upon any breach of the conditions thereof.
Pay. Clerks.	
Oath of office.	
1862, ch. 128. Vol. xii. p. 502.	
Bonds.	
Issues of provisions, clothing, and fuel for refugees and freedmen, &c.	<p>SEC. 2. <i>And be it further enacted,</i> That the Secretary of War may direct such issues of provisions, clothing, and fuel, as he may deem needful for the immediate and temporary shelter and supply of destitute and suffering refugees and freedmen and their wives and children, under such rules and regulations as he may direct.</p>
Assistant commissioner for each state in insurrection.	<p>SEC. 3. <i>And be it further enacted,</i> That the President may, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint an assistant commissioner for each of the states declared to be in insurrection, not exceeding ten in number, who shall, under the direction of the commissioner, aid in the execution of the provisions of this act; and he shall give a bond to the Treasurer of the United States, in the sum of twenty thousand dollars, in the form and manner prescribed in the first section of this act. Each of said commissioners shall receive an annual salary of two thousand five hundred dollars in full compensation for all his services. And any military officer may be detailed and assigned to duty under this act without increase of pay or allowances. The commissioner shall, before the commencement of each regular session of congress, make full report of his proceedings with exhibits of the state of his accounts to the President, who shall communicate the same to congress, and shall also make special reports whenever required to do so by the President or either house of congress; and the assistant commissioners shall make quarterly reports of their proceedings to the commissioner, and also such other special reports as from time to time may be required.</p>
Bond.	
Pay. Military officers may be assigned to this duty. Annual and special reports of commissioners.	
Assistants to report quarterly.	
Abandoned lands in insurrectionary states may be set apart for refugees and freedmen.	<p>SEC. 4. <i>And be it further enacted,</i> That the commissioner, under the direction of the President, shall have authority to set apart, for the use of loyal refugees and freedmen, such tracts of land within the insurrectionary states as shall have been abandoned, or to which the United States shall have acquired title by confiscation or sale, or otherwise, and to every male citizen, whether refugee or freedman, as aforesaid, there shall be assigned not more than forty acres of such land, and the person to whom it was assigned shall be protected in the use and enjoyment of the land for the term of three years at an annual rent not exceeding six per centum upon the value of such land, as it was appraised by the state authorities in the year eighteen hundred and sixty, for the purpose of taxation, and in case no such appraisal can be found, then the rental shall be based upon the estimated value of the land in said year, to be ascertained in such manner as the commissioner may by regulation prescribe. At the end of said term, or at any time during said term, the occupants of any parcels so assigned may purchase the land and receive such title thereto as the United States can convey, upon paying therefor the value of the land, as</p>
Limit of land assigned.	
Rent.	
Occupants may purchase.	

ascertained and fixed for the purpose of determining the annual rent aforesaid.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

Repealing clause.

APPROVED, March 3, 1865.

CHAP. XCI.—*An Act to incorporate a national military and naval Asylum for the Relief of the totally disabled Officers and Men of the Volunteer Forces of the United States.*

March 3, 1865.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That Uly[s]ses S. Grant, David G. Farragut, Hannibal Hamlin, Andrew Johnson, Salmon P. Chase, Edwin M. Stanton, Gideon Welles, John A. Dix, George Bancroft, William T. Sherman, John A. Andrew, Andrew G. Curtin, Oliver P. Morton, Benjamin F. Butler, George G. Meade, John Brough, Nathaniel P. Banks, Joseph Hooker, Samuel R. Curtis, Richard J. Oglesby, David Tod, Henry Ward Beecher, Ambrose E. Burnside, John A. Logan, Daniel S. Dickinson, William A. Buckingham, Carl Schurz, Oliver O. Howard, Hamilton Fish, Frank Sigel, Francis Wayland, Austin Blair, Thomas C. Fletcher, Robert Breckinridge, Lovell H. Rousseau, Horace Greeley, George H. Stuart, Joseph Henry, John G. Barnard, Henry J. Raymond, William B. Astor, James Gordon Bennett, H. W. Halleck, William E. Dodge, William M. Evarts, James T. Brady, Gerrit Smith, Reuben E. Fenton, Bellamy Storer, George P. McIlvaine, Galusha A. Grow, Henry W. Bellows, J. S. C. Abbott, Jay Cooke, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Israel Washburn, Jr., Ichabod Goodwin, Frederick Smyth, John Z. Goodrich, Charles Henry Davis, William Claffin, J. Wiley Edmands, Amos A. Lawrence, Edward S. Tobey, Thomas Russell, Charles G. Loring, George B. Upton, Charles G. Greene, J. M. S. Williams, George G. Stannard, Henry M. Rice, Grenville M. Dodge, Morton M. Michael, Thomas Webster, James M. Scovel, Nathaniel B. Baker, Richard J. Field, Henry C. Carey, John W. Forney, Bishop M. Simpson, G. S. Griffith, William Henry Channing, James E. Yeatman, Dwight Durkee, A. T. Stewart, Barnabas Hobbs, Montgomery Blair, Joseph R. Barnes, E. B. Ward, Henry Benham, Frank Moore, Alfred Lee, Edward Solomon, Thomas C. Bryan, B. B. French, Samuel J. Crawford, James T. Pratt, Alfred H. Terry, Edward Tompkins, Moses F. Odell, and their successors, duly chosen, are hereby constituted and created a body corporate in the District of Columbia.

A national military and naval asylum incorporated.

Corporators.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation hereby constituted shall consist of one hundred members. They shall have power to fill all vacancies created by death, resignation, or otherwise, and to make by-laws, rules, and regulations: *Provided*, That such by-laws, rules, and regulations are not repugnant to the constitution or laws of the United States.

Corporation to consist of one hundred members.

Powers.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the business of said corporation shall be managed by a board of twelve directors, who shall elect from their number a president, two vice-presidents, and a secretary; and seven of the directors, of whom the president or one of the vice-presidents shall be one, shall form a quorum for the transaction of business at any special meeting of the board of directors.

Directors.

Officers.

Quorum.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the board of directors shall have authority to procure for early use, at a suitable place, a site for a military asylum for officers and men of the volunteer forces of the United States who have been or may hereafter be totally disabled by wounds received or sickness contracted while in the line of their duty during the present rebellion; and to have the necessary buildings erected, having due regard to the health of the location, facility of access, and competency to accommodate the persons provided for in this act.

Site for a military asylum.

Buildings.