

Leaves of absence employees outside of Washington.

ators, repair men, messengers, laborers, and other necessary employees, outside of the city of Washington, who, without additional expense to the Government, may hereafter, in the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture, be granted such leaves of absence as are now authorized to employees in the office of the Chief of the Weather Bureau, not to exceed thirty days in any one year. three hundred and eighty-two thousand one hundred and ninety-five dollars.

Maps, bulletins, etc.

All other expenses, itemized as follows: Maps, bulletins, and stationery, and scientific publications for stations; and the maintenance of a printing office in the District of Columbia for printing the necessary circulars, weather maps, bulletins, and monthly weather reviews (including the hire of printers, lithographers, and other necessary working force); for traveling expenses; for freight and express charges; for instruments and shelters therefor; for telegraphing or telephoning reports and messages, the rates to be fixed by the Secretary of Agriculture by agreement with the companies performing the services; for rents and other incidental expenses of offices maintained as stations of observation; for maintenance and repair of seacoast telegraph lines; for river observations and reports; for storm and other signals; for cotton-region observations and reports; for corn and wheat observations and reports; for aerial observations and reports; for special observations and pay of observers of West Indian, Mexican, and Central American stations during the hurricane season; for supplies for climate and crop services; and for investigations on climatology, including assistance and all necessary expenses, three hundred and eighty-two thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven dollars.

Transportation, etc. Instruments. Telegraphing, etc.

Rents, etc.

Coast telegraphs, storm signals, etc.

Cotton, corn, and wheat reports. Aerial reports. Hurricane reports.

Supplies, etc.

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., erection of building.

**ERECTION OF BUILDING AT SAULT SAINTE MARIE, MICHIGAN:** For the erection of a small brick and stone building on the Government reservation at Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, for use of the Weather Bureau, including all necessary labor, materials, and expenses, three thousand dollars.

Approved, March 22, 1898.

March 23, 1898.

**CHAP. 86.**—An Act To amend section forty-four hundred and forty of the Revised Statutes, authorizing the licensing of mates on river and ocean steamers.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section forty-four hundred and forty of the Revised Statutes of the United States be amended to read as follows:

Steam vessels. Licensing of mates. R. S., sec. 4440, p. 860, amended.

“**SEC. 4440.** Whenever any person applies for authority to be employed as chief mate of ocean or coastwise steam vessels, or as second or third mate of ocean or coastwise steam vessels, who shall have charge of a watch, or whenever any person applies for authority to be employed as mate of river steamers, the inspectors shall require satisfactory evidence of the knowledge, experience, and skill of the applicant in lading cargo and in handling and stowage of freight, and if for license as chief mate on ocean or coastwise steamers, or as second or third mate of ocean or coastwise steamers, who shall have charge of a watch, shall also examine him as to his knowledge and ability in navigation and managing such vessels and all other duties pertaining to his station, and if satisfied of his qualifications and good character they shall grant him a license authorizing him to perform such duties for the term of five years upon the waters upon which he is found qualified to act; but such license shall be suspended or revoked upon satisfactory proof of bad conduct, intemperate habits, unskillfulness, or want of knowledge of the duties of his station or the willful violation of any provision of this title.”

Approved, March 23, 1898.

Examinations.

Revocation of license.