

the same can be purchased the cheapest in the markets of the United States, quality and cost of transportation and the interest of the Government considered, except that purchases may be made in open market, in the manner common among business men, when the aggregate amount required does not exceed two hundred dollars, but every such purchase shall be immediately reported to the Secretary of War.'

"And the words:

"*Provided*, That the number of horses purchased under this appropriation, added to the number on hand, shall not at any time exceed the number of enlisted men and Indian scouts in the mounted service, and that no part of this appropriation shall be paid out for horses not purchased by contract, after competition duly invited by the Quartermaster's Department, and an inspection by such department, all under the direction and authority of the Secretary of War.'

"And the words:

"*Provided*, That no more than one million dollars of the sums appropriated by this Act shall be paid out for the services of civilian employees in the Quartermaster's Department, including those heretofore paid out of the funds appropriated for regular supplies, incidental expenses, barracks and quarters, army transportation, clothing, camp and garrison equipage; that no employee paid therefrom shall receive a salary more than one hundred and fifty dollars per month unless the same be specially fixed by law.'

"Third. So much of the Act approved March fifteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, entitled 'An Act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine,' under the heading "Ordnance Department," as provides that not more than sixty-five thousand dollars of the money appropriated for the Ordnance Department in all its branches shall be applied to the payment of civilian clerks in said department."

SEC. 2. That during the time the operation of the foregoing provisions of law shall remain so suspended pursuant to this Act materials required by the War Department may, in the discretion of the Secretary of War, be purchased abroad, and shall be admitted free of duty.

SEC. 3. That during the same time the Bureau of Ordnance of the War Department is authorized to purchase without advertisement such ordnance and ordnance stores as are needed for immediate use; and when such ordnance and ordnance stores are to be manufactured, then to make contracts without advertisement for such stores, to be delivered as rapidly as manufactured.

Approved, March 3, 1899.

—purchase of horses; limit, etc. *Ante*, p. 323.

—civilian employees; limit.

Ordnance Department. *Ante*, p. 326. Civilian clerks; limit.

Admission free of war materials.

Purchases without advertisement.

**CHAP. 437.**—An Act Granting to the Muscle Shoals Power Company right to erect and construct canal and power stations at Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

March 3, 1899.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the consent of Congress is hereby given to the Muscle Shoals Power Company, a corporation created and organized under a charter granted by the legislature of the State of Alabama, its successors or assigns, to erect, construct, operate, and maintain inlet and outlet races or canals and a power station or stations at a point or points at or near the Muscle Shoals in Tennessee River, and to make such other improvements as may be necessary within said limits for the development of water power and transmission of the same: *Provided*, That the constructions hereby authorized do not in any way interfere with the Muscle Shoals Canal, or with navigation of said river: *Provided further*, That until the plans and location of the works herein authorized, so far as they affect the interests of navigation, have been approved by the Secretary of War, the improvements shall not be commenced or built, and the Sec-

Muscle Shoals Power Company may construct canal, etc., at Muscle Shoals, Ala.

*Provisos.* No interference with Muscle Shoals Canal, etc. Approval of Secretary of War.

retary of War is authorized and directed to fix reasonable charges for use of said power.

SEC. 2. That unless the work herein authorized be commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date hereof, the privileges hereby granted shall cease and be determined.

SEC. 3. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, March 3, 1899.

March 3, 1899.

**CHAP. 438.**—An Act To enable the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, to create certain indebtedness, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the city of Albuquerque, in the county of Bernalillo and Territory of New Mexico, is hereby authorized and empowered to issue bonds of the said city in a sum not to exceed sixty-five thousand dollars in all, in such denominations and at such rate of interest, not exceeding five per centum per annum, as the municipal government of said city shall provide, notwithstanding the Act of Congress approved July thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, entitled "An Act to prohibit the passage of local or special laws in the Territories of the United States, to limit Territorial indebtedness, and for other purposes." And any and all bonds of the said city issued in pursuance of the terms of this Act shall be valid and binding obligations of said city, notwithstanding the same or any part thereof may be in excess of the limit of municipal indebtedness fixed by said Act of Congress approved July thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-six: *Provided,* That the bonds issued by virtue of this Act shall be issued only for the purpose of funding the warrants of said city outstanding on the first day of January, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight. Such bonds shall not be disposed of for less than their par value, and shall not bear a greater rate of interest than five per centum per annum.

SEC. 2. That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Approved, March 3, 1899.

March 3, 1899.

**CHAP. 439.**—An Act For the erection of public building at Lockport, New York, and New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

*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 be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to acquire, by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, a site, and cause to be erected thereon a suitable building, including fireproof vaults, heating and ventilating apparatus, and approaches, for the use and accommodation of the United States post-office and other Government offices, in the city of Lockport and State of New York, the cost of said site and building, including said vaults, heating and ventilating apparatus, and approaches, complete, not to exceed the sum of fifty thousand dollars.

Proposals for the sale of land suitable for said site shall be invited by public advertisement in one or more of the newspapers of said city of largest circulation for at least twenty days prior to the date specified in the advertisement for the opening of said proposals.

Proposals made in response to said advertisement shall be addressed and mailed to the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall then cause the said proposed sites, and such others as he may think proper to designate, to be examined in person by an agent of the Treasury Department, who shall make written report to said Secretary of the results of said

Commencement and completion.

Amendment.

Albuquerque, N. Mex.  
Issue of bonds authorized.

Vol. 24, p. 171.

Proviso.  
Restrictions.

Effect.

Lockport, N. Y.  
Public building authorized.

Proposals for site.

Examination of site.