

US Postal Laws & Regulations

Brought to you by the US Postal Bulletins Consortium

Year: 1887

Irrelative duties

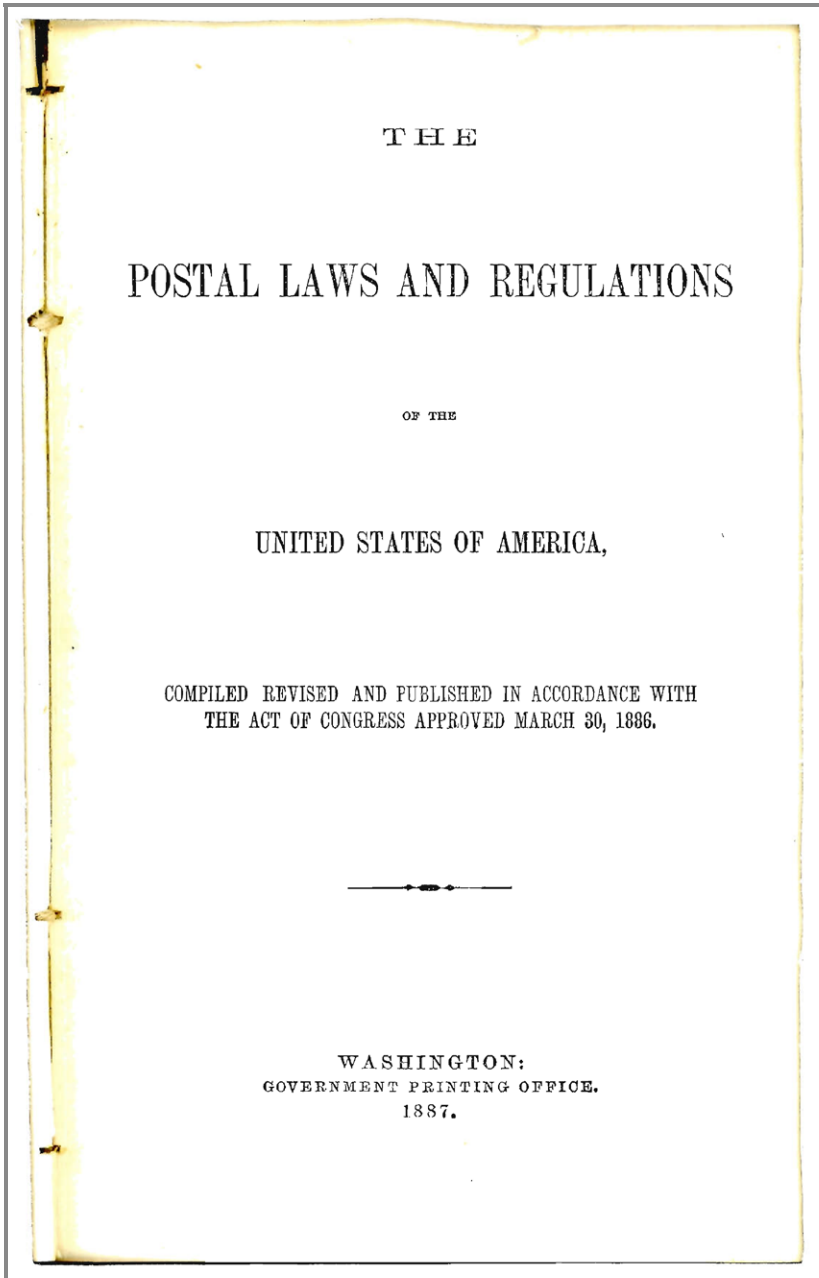


Table Of Contents

[Click here to view the entire PDF Document](#)

	<u>Pages</u>
Accounting forms (9 pages)	504-512
Accounts, postmaster (10 pages)	107-116
Advertised (3 pages)	244-245, 250
Annual reports (4 pages)	62-65
Audits (7 pages)	116-122
Backstamping (1 page)	232
Bad order (1 page)	223
Blanks (3 pages)	204-206
Boxes (2 pages)	213-214
Canada (1 page)	171
Cards (7 pages)	29, 86-88, 246-248
Carriers (15 pages)	104-105, 259-271
Clerks (4 pages)	216-219
Commercial papers (2 pages)	167-168
Contracts (3 pages)	58-60
Corner cards (7 pages)	29, 86-88, 246-248
Crimes, postal (16 pages)	487-502
Dead letter office (15 pages)	27-28, 81, 182-186, 226, 242-243, 248-251
Delivery of mail (16 pages)	236-241, 387-396
Difficiency in address supplied (1 page)	251
Domestic mail matter (27 pages)	135-161
Drop letters (3 pages)	136-138
Exchange offices (-8 pages)	254-245
Expenditures (9 pages)	99-107
Fictitious (2 pages)	241, 250
Finances (32 pages)	44-75
First-class mail matter (5 pages)	135-138, 219
Foreign mails (34 pages)	26-27, 161-182, 254-259, 324-327
Forms (3 pages)	204-206
Forwarding (5 pages)	235-236, 281, 390, 405
Fourth-class mail (4 pages)	153-156
Franking privilege (2 pages)	175-176
Fraudulent (3 pages)	159, 396-397
Free matter (9 pages)	174-182
Held for postage (3 pages)	158, 230, 251
Hotel matter (1 page)	250
Incoming mail (22 pages)	231-252
Index (71 pages)	527-597
Inquiries (2 pages)	399-400
Irrelative duties (5 pages)	76-80
Lotteries (3 pages)	158-159, 230
Mail delivery (6 pages)	236-241
Mail in transit (9 pages)	23-31
Mail matter (67 pages)	219-285
Mail messenger service (2 pages)	303-304
Mexico (2 pages)	172-173
Misdirected (3 pages)	158, 224, 230
Missent mail (1 page)	230
Money orders (6 pages)	25-26, 82, 122-124
Money orders, domestic (45 pages)	423-448, 467-485
Money orders, international/foreign (20 pages)	448-467
Newspaper stamps (2 pages)	86, 90
Obscene (4 pages)	158-160, 230

Official matter (-167 pages)	176-8
Organization (36 pages)	9-44
Out of mails (5 pages)	288-292
Outgoing mail (8 pages)	228-230, 376-380
Penalties (9 pages)	125-133
Penalty envelopes (3 pages)	176-178
Periodical stamps (1 page)	90
Post offices (10 pages)	187-188, 210-216, 220
Post roads (3 pages)	293-295
Postage due stamps (2 pages)	91, 234
Postal cards (5 pages)	83-84, 137, 167, 247
Postal notes (9 pages)	477-485
Poste restante (1 page)	404
Postmarking (1 page)	223-223
Postmasters (25 pages)	188-212
Printed matter (2 pages)	167-168
Printing (3 pages)	67-69
Railway mail service (46 pages)	21-22, 105-107, 295-303, 343-371, 419-421
Rates, fees (10 pages)	136-137, 150-151, 156, 170-173, 374
Receiving offices (22 pages)	231-252
Refused mail (3 pages)	247, 398-399
Registration, domestic mail (44 pages)	29, 373-401, 408-421
Registration, foreign mail (8 pages)	401-408
Request matter (3 pages)	246-248
Return receipt (3 pages)	377-378, 403
Returned for better direction (1 page)	230
Returned mail (2 pages)	397-398
Revenues POD (19 pages)	81-99
Safety of the mails (10 pages)	333-342
Sailers' letters (2 pages)	136-137
Samples of merchandise (2 pages)	167, 169
Second-class mail (16 pages)	138-150, 242, 247-248
Ship letters (3 pages)	327-329
Soldiers' letters (2 pages)	136-137
Special delivery service (12 pages)	271-282
Special delivery stamps (2 pages)	29, 91
Special request envelopes (3 pages)	86-88
Stamped envelopes (7 pages)	83-89
Stamps (14 pages)	82-92, 122-124
Star routes (4 pages)	220-221, 305-306
Statutes, index to (-489 pages)	515-25
Steamboat (-923 pages)	305-6, 317-8, 327-9
Table of contents (2 pages)	7, 8
Third-class mail (4 pages)	150-153
Transit mail (2 pages)	230-231
Transportation of the mails (56 pages)	287-342
Unclaimed mail (4 pages)	246-247, 249-250
Underpaid mail (5 pages)	232-235, 391
Universal Postal Union (4 pages)	162-165
Unmailable matter (12 pages)	158-161, 170-172, 224-226, 243-244
Unpaid mail (4 pages)	224, 233-234, 391
Weather reports (1 page)	221
Withdrawal of mail (4 pages)	226-228, 297
Women (1 page)	33

CHAPTER THREE.

IRRELATIVE DUTIES OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

MEMBER OF SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

Sec. 139. Establishment and General Functions.—The President, the Vice-President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, the Postmaster-General, the Attorney-General, the Chief Justice, the Commissioner of [*the Patent Office*] [Patents], and the governor of the District of Columbia, and such other persons as they may elect honorary members, are hereby constituted an establishment, by the name of the “Smithsonian Institution,” for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men; and by that name shall be known and have perpetual succession, with the powers, limitations, and restrictions hereinafter contained, and no other. (R. S., § 5579.)

The members and honorary members of the Institution may hold stated and special meetings for the supervision of the affairs of the Institution and the advice and instruction of the Board of Regents, to be called in the manner provided for in the by-laws of the Institution, at which the President, and in his absence the Vice-President, shall preside. (R. S., § 5585.)

Otherwise the business of the Institution is conducted by a Board of Regents and its officers. (See R. S., §§ 5580-5594.)

APPROVAL OF PLANS AND ESTIMATES FOR NEW BUILDINGS.

Sec. 140. Before any new buildings for the use of the United States are commenced the plans and full estimates therefor shall be prepared and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Postmaster-General, and the Secretary of the Interior; and the cost of each building shall not exceed the amount of such estimate. (R. S., § 3734.)

ANNUAL FIXATION OF RATES FOR OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.

Sec. 141. Priority of Official Telegrams at Fixed Rates.—Telegrams between the several Departments of the Government and their officers and agents, in their transmission over the lines of any telegraph company to which has been given the right of way, timber, or station lands from the public domain, shall have priority over all other business, at such rates as the Postmaster-General shall annually fix. And no part of any appropriation for the several Departments of the Government shall be paid to any company which neglects or refuses to transmit such telegrams in accordance with the provisions of this section. (R. S., § 5266.)

Sec. 142. Privileges Granted Companies in Return.—Any telegraph company now organized, or which may hereafter be organized, under the laws of any State, shall have the right to construct, maintain, and operate lines of telegraph through and over any portion of the public domain of the United States, over and along any of the military or post roads of the United States, which have been or may hereafter be declared such by law, and over, under, or across the navigable streams or waters of the United States; but such lines of telegraph shall be so constructed and maintained as not to obstruct the navigation of such streams and waters, or interfere with the ordinary travel on such military or post roads. (R. S., § 5263.)

Any telegraph company organized under the laws of any State shall have the right to take and use from the public lands through which its lines of telegraph may pass, the necessary stone, timber, and other materials for its posts, piers, stations, and other needful uses in the construction, maintenance, and operation of its lines of telegraph, and may pre-empt and use such portion of the unoccupied public lands subject to pre-emption through which their lines of telegraph may be located as may be necessary for their stations, not exceeding forty acres for each station; but such stations shall not be within fifteen miles of each other. (R. S., § 5264.)

Sec. 143. Companies to File Acceptance.—Before any telegraph company shall exercise any of the powers or privileges conferred by law, such company shall file their written acceptance with the Postmaster-General of the restrictions and obligations required by law. (R. S., § 5268.)

The chief clerk will file, with the date of filing indorsed, and preserve in the Postmaster-General's office all such acceptances.

Sec. 144. Transfers Forbidden.—The rights and privileges granted under the provisions of the act of July twenty-four, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, entitled, "An act to aid in the construction of telegraph lines, and to secure to the Government the use of the same for postal, military, and other purposes," or under this title, shall not be transferred by any company acting thereunder to any other corporation, association, or person. (R. S., § 5265.)

Sec. 145. Penalties for Refusal to Transmit Telegrams.—Whenever any telegraph company, after having filed its written acceptance with the Postmaster-General of the restrictions and obligations required by the act approved July twenty-four, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, entitled, "An act to aid in the construction of telegraph lines and to secure to the Government the use of the same for postal, military, and other purposes," or by this title, shall, by its agents or employes, refuse

or neglect to transmit any such telegraphic communication as are provided for by the aforesaid act, or by this title, or by the provisions of section two hundred and twenty-one, title, "The Department of War," authorizing the Secretary of War to provide for taking meteorological observations at the military stations and other points of the interior of the continent, and for giving notice on the northern lakes and sea-board of the approach and force of storms, such telegraph company shall be liable to a penalty of not less than one hundred dollars and not more than one thousand dollars for each such refusal or neglect. [To be recovered by an action or actions at law in any district court of the United States.] (R. S., § 5269.)

Sec. 146. Postmaster-General to Select Appraisers for United States.—The United States may, for postal, military, or other purposes, purchase all the telegraph lines, property, and effects of any or all companies acting under the provisions of the act of July twenty-four, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, entitled, "An act to aid in the construction of telegraph lines, and to secure to the Government the use of the same for postal, military, and other purposes," or under this title, at an appraised value, to be ascertained by five competent, disinterested persons, two of whom shall be selected by the Postmaster-General of the United States, two by the company interested, and one by the four so previously selected. (R. S., § 5267.)

Sec. 147. Companies Which Have Accepted.—The following-named companies have filed acceptances pursuant to section one hundred and forty-three, prior to June 30, 1887, and on the dates respectively as stated, viz:

- The American Submarine Telegraph Company of New York, N. Y. July 24, 1866.
- The National Telegraph Company of New York, N. Y. July 30, 1866.
- The Globe Insulated Lines Telegraph Company of New York, N. Y. July 31, 1866.
- International Telegraph Company of Portland, Me. October 6, 1866.
- The Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company of New York, N. Y. March 19, 1867.
- The Franco-American Land and Ocean Telegraph Company of New York, N. Y. April 6, 1867.
- The Globe Telegraph Company of New York. May 30, 1867.
- Mississippi Valley National Telegraph Company of St. Louis, Mo. June 4, 1867.
- Western Union Telegraph Company of New York. June 8, 1867.
- Northwestern Telegraph Company of Kenosha, Wis. July 30, 1867.
- Great Western Telegraph Company of New York. January 17, 1868.
- The Franklin Telegraph Company of Boston, Mass. April 4, 1868.
- The Insulated Lines Telegraph Company of Boston, Mass. April 13, 1868.
- Pacific and Atlantic Telegraph Company of Pittsburgh, Pa. July 22, 1868.
- The Atlantic and Pacific States Telegraph Company of Sacramento, Cal. Sept. 7, 1868.
- The Eastern Telegraph Company of Philadelphia, Pa. October 5, 1868.
- The Delaware River Telegraph Company, Philadelphia, Pa. October 23, 1868.
- Cape May and Shore Telegraph Company, New York City. April 2, 1869.

- Peninsula Telegraph Company, New York City. May 9, 1869.
 Ocean Telegraph Company of Boston, Mass. July 15, 1869.
 The American Cable Company of New York. April 15, 1870.
 Southern and Atlantic Telegraph Company of Philadelphia, Pa. July 22, 1870.
 International Ocean Telegraph Company, New York City. January 20, 1871.
 Missouri River Telegraph Company of Sioux City, Iowa. May 3, 1871.
 The Marine and Inland Telegraph Company of New Jersey. November 27, 1872.
 Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company of Missouri, New York City. May 8, 1877.
 New Jersey and New England Telegraph Company. November 21, 1878.
 The American Rapid Telegraph Company, 41 Wall street, New York. April 12, 1879.
 Central Union Telegraph Company, 145 Broadway, New York. May 9, 1879.
 New York Land and Ocean Telegraph Company. May 10, 1879.
 Deseret Telegraph Company, Salt Lake City, Utah. May 19, 1879.
 American Union Telegraph Company of New York, 145 Broadway, New York. July 1, 1879.
 The American Union Telegraph Company of Missouri, St. Louis, Mo. July 9, 1879.
 Wabash Railway Company, New York. July 11, 1879.
 The American Union Telegraph Company of New Jersey, Jersey City, N. J. July 17, 1879.
 The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company of Maryland, Baltimore, Md. July 18, 1879.
 The American Union Telegraph Company of Baltimore City, Md. July 31, 1879.
 The Deer Lodge Telegraph Company of Butte City, Mont. August 30, 1879.
 The American Union Telegraph Company of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Sept. 4, 1879.
 The American Union Telegraph Company of Indiana, La Fayette, Ind. Sept. 12, 1879.
 The Cheyenne and Black Hills Telegraph Company, Cheyenne, Wyoming. November 7, 1879.
 The American Union Telegraph Company of Ohio, Toledo, Ohio. Nov. 8, 1879.
 The American Union Telegraph Company of Louisiana, New Orleans, La. March 1, 1880.
 Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company of Ohio, Cincinnati, Ohio. Sept. 3, 1880.
 The Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific Railway Company of St. Louis, Mo. Sept. 13, 1880.
 Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company of Illinois, Chicago, Ill. Sept. 23, 1880.
 Frontier Telegraph Company of Texas, Lampasas, Tex. Oct. 25, 1880.
 Bankers and Merchants' Telegraph Company of New Jersey. April 21, 1881.
 Bankers and Merchants' Telegraph Company of New York, New York. June 8, 1881.
 Mutual Union Telegraph Company of Illinois, Chicago, Ill. Oct. 24, 1881.
 Mutual Union Telegraph Company of Missouri, Chicago, Ill. Nov. 14, 1881.
 New Jersey Mutual Telegraph Company, Newark, N. J. Nov. 17, 1881.
 Bankers and Merchants' Telegraph Company, New York. Dec. 8, 1881.
 The Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company, Pittsburgh, Pa. March 6, 1882.
 East Tennessee Telephone Company, New York. May 31, 1882.
 Southern Telegraph Company, New York. Aug. 4, 1882.
 Postal Telegraph Company, New York. Aug. 31, 1882.
 Bankers and Merchants' Telegraph Company of Baltimore City, New York. Dec. 14, 1882.
 Mutual Union Telegraph Company of New York. March 5, 1883.

The Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company in Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, Pa. March 17, 1883.

The Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company of Indiana. July 17, 1883.

The Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company of the State of New York. July 17, 1883.

The Northern and Southern Telegraph Company, New York City. Sept. 28, 1883.

Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company of New Jersey. Nov. 7, 1883.

National Telegraph Company of New York. Jan. 31, 1884.

Philadelphia and Seaboard Telegraph Company of New Jersey. Feb. 23, 1884.

Providence and Pascoag Telegraph Company of Rhode Island. July 10, 1884.

Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company of Missouri. July 18, 1884.

Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company of Louisiana. July 25, 1884.

The New England Telegraph Company. July 26, 1884.

The Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company of Texas. Aug. 13, 1884.

The New England Telegraph Company of Massachusetts. Sept. 5, 1884.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Telegraph Lines, Richmond, Va. Sept. 29, 1884.

The Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company of Massachusetts. Dec. 15, 1884.

The Postal Telegraph and Cable Company. Jan. 29, 1885.

The Pacific Telegraph Company. July 27, 1885.

The Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company of Baltimore County, Maryland. Feb. 20, 1886.

Postal Telegraph-Cable Company. April 6, 1886.

The North American Telegraph Company. April 22, 1886.

The San Juan Telegraph Company, Ouray, Colorado. June 9, 1886.

Pacific Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, New York. July 20, 1886.

The Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company of Pennsylvania, Baltimore, Md. Sept. 11, 1886.

The Manhattan Railway Company, New York, N. Y. Oct. 6, 1886.

The Pacific Mutual Telegraph Company, Rosedale, Kans. Feb. 24, 1887.

Empire and Bay State Telegraph Co., New York. July 12, 1887.