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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 employés, refuse
or neglect to transmit any such telegraphic communication as are pro-
vided 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 re-
covered 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 com-
panies have filed acceptances pursuant to section one hundred and forty-
three, prior to June 30, 1837, 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.
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.
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.
The Atlantic and Pacific States Telegraph Company of Sacramento, Cal. Sept. 7,
1868.
The Cape May and Shore Telegraph Company, New York City. April 2, 1869.
Peninsula Telegraph Company, New York City. May 9, 1869.


The American Cable Company of New York. April 15, 1870.


Missouri River Telegraph Company of Sioux City, Iowa. May 3, 1871.

The Marine and Inland Telegraph Company of New Jersey. November 27, 1872.


Central Union Telegraph Company, 145 Broadway, New York. May 9, 1879.


Deseret Telegraph Company, Salt Lake City, Utah. May 19, 1879.


The American Union Telegraph Company of Missouri, St. Louis, Mo. July 9, 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 Indiana, La Fayette, Ind. Sept. 12, 1879.


The American Union Telegraph Company of Ohio, Toledo, Ohio. Nov. 8, 1879.


The Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific Railway Company of St. Louis, Mo. Sept. 13, 1880.


Bankers and Merchants' Telegraph Company of New Jersey. April 21, 1881.


New Jersey Mutual Telegraph Company, Newark, N. J. Nov. 17, 1881.


Mutual Union Telegraph Company of New York. March 5, 1883.

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


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


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

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


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


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

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


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

Postal Telegraph-Cable Company. April 6, 1886.


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


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