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[GENERAL NATURE—No. 118.]

An act to revise, consolidate, and amend the statutes relating to the Postoffice Department.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be established, at the seat of government of the United States of America, a Department to be known as the Postoffice Department.

SEC. 2. That the principal officers of the Postoffice Department shall be one Postmaster General and three Assistant Postmasters General, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and who may be removed in the same manner; and the term of office of the Postmaster General shall be for and during the term of the President by whom he is appointed, and for one month thereafter unless sooner removed.

SEC. 3. That the Postmaster General may appoint the following employes in the Postoffice Department: One chief clerk for the Postmaster General and one for each of the Assistant Postmasters General, one superintendent of postoffice building and disbursing clerk, one superintendent and one chief clerk of the money order system, one superintendent and one chief clerk of foreign mails, one topographer for Postoffice Department, one assistant attorney general for the Postoffice Department, one chief of division for the office of mail depredations, one chief of division of dead letters, one superintendent of the blank agency, one assistant superintendent and four assistants, fourteen clerks of class four, sixty-one clerks of class three, fifty clerks of class two, seventy-one clerks of class one, fifty-seven female clerks, one messenger for the Postmaster General and one for each of the Assistant Postmasters General, four assistant messengers, ten watchmen twenty-five laborers, one engineer, one assistant engineer, one carpenter, one assistant carpenter, one fireman and blacksmith, two firemen, three female laborers, and such a number of temporary clerks, female clerks, folders, watchmen, and laborers as may be required.

SEC. 4. That the annual salaries of the officers, clerks and others employed in the Postoffice Department shall be as follows:

Of the Postmaster General, eight thousand dollars;

Of the Assistant Postmasters General, three thousand five hundred dollars each,

Of the superintendent of the money-order system, three thousand dollars;

Of the superintendent of foreign mails, three thousand dollars;

Of the topographer of the Postoffice Department, two thousand five hundred dollars;

Of the assistant attorney general of the Postoffice Department, four thousand dollars;

Of the chief of division for the office of mail depredations, twenty-five hundred dollars;

Of the chief of division of dead letters, two thousand five hundred dollars;

Of the superintendent of Postoffice building and disbursing officer, two thousand three hundred dollars;

Of the chief clerk to the Postmaster General, two thousand two hundred dollars.

Of the chief clerks to the Assistant Postmasters General, the chief clerk of the superintendent of the money-order office, and the chief clerk of the superintendent of foreign mails, two thousand dollars each:

Of the superintendent of the blank agency, one thousand eight hundred dollars; of the assistant superintendent, one thousand six hundred dollars; of the four assistants, one thousand two hundred dollars each;

Of the clerks of class four, one thousand eight hundred dollars each:

Of the clerks of class three, one thousand six hundred dollars each;

Of the clerks of class two, one thousand four hundred dollars each;

Of the clerks of class one, one thousand two hundred dollars each;

Of the female clerks, nine hundred dollars each;

Of the messenger to the Postmaster General, nine hundred dollars;

Of the messengers to the Assistant Postmasters General, eight hundred and forty dollars each;

Of the assistant messengers, watchmen, and laborers, eight hundred dollars each;

Of the engineer, one thousand six hundred dollars;

Of the assistant engineer, one thousand dollars;

Of the carpenter, one thousand two hundred and fifty-two dollars;

Of the assistant carpenter, one thousand dollars;

Of the fireman and blacksmith, nine hundred dollars;

Of the firemen, seven hundred and twenty dollars each;

Of the female laborers, four hundred and eighty dollars each.

SEC. 5. That the Postmaster General shall procure and cause to be kept a seal for his department, which shall be affixed to all commissions of postmasters and others, and used to authenticate all transcripts and copies which may be required from his department.

SEC. 6. That the Postmaster General shall establish and discontinue postoffices; instruct all persons in the postal service with reference to their duties; decide on the forms of all official papers; prescribe the manner of keeping and stating accounts; enforce the prompt rendition of returns relative to said accounts; control, according to law, and subject to the settlement of the Auditor, all expenses incident to the service of the Department; superintend the disposition of the moneys of the Department; direct the manner in which balances shall be paid over; issue warrants to cover money into the treasury, and to pay out the same; and generally superintend the business of the Department, and execute all laws relative to the postal service.

SEC. 7. That in case of the death, resignation, or absence of the Postmaster General, all his powers and duties shall devolve, for the time being, on the First Assistant Postmaster General.

SEC. 8. That the Postmaster General shall make the following reports to Congress at each annual session:

A report of all contracts for carrying the mail made within the preceding year, giving in each case the name of the contractor; the date and duration of the contract; the routes embraced therein, with the length of each; the time of arrival and departure at the ends of each route; the mode of transportation; and the price to be paid, together with a copy of the recorded abstracts of all proposals for carrying the mail, as provided by section two hundred and forty-eight.

A report of all land and water mails established or ordered within the preceding year, other than those let to contract at the annual letting, giving in each case the route or water course on which the mail is established, the name of the person employed to transport it, the mode of transportation, the price to be paid and the duration of the order or contract.

A report of all allowances made to contractors within the preceding year above the sums originally stipulated in their respective contracts, and the reasons for the same, and of all orders made whereby additional expense is incurred on any route beyond the original contract price, giving in each case the route, the name of the contractor, the original service provided for by the contract, the original price, the additional service required and the additional allowance therefor.

A report of all curtailments of expenses effected within the preceding year, giving in each case the same particulars as in the preceding report.

A report of the finances of the Department for the preceding year, showing the amount of balance due the Department at the beginning of the year; the amount of postage which accrued within the year; the amount of engagement and liabilities, and the amount actually paid during the year for carrying the mail, showing how much of said amount was for carrying the mail in preceding years.

A report of the fines imposed on, and the deductions from the pay of, contractors, made during the preceding year, stating the name of the contractor; the nature of the delinquency; the route on which it occurred; when the fine was imposed, and whether the fine or deduction has been remitted, and for what reason.

A copy of each contract for carrying the mail between the United States and foreign countries, with a statement of the amount of postage derived under the same, so far as the returns of the Department will enable it to be done.

A report showing all contracts which have been made by the Department, other than for carrying the mail, giving the name of the contractor; the article or thing contracted for; the place where the article was to be delivered or the thing performed; the amount paid therefor, and the date and duration of the contract.

A report of the clerks and other persons employed in the Department during the year, or any part thereof, giving the names of the persons; the time they were actually employed, and the sum paid each; whether they have been usefully employed; whether the services of any can be dispensed with without detriment to the public service, and whether the removal of any and the appointment of others in their stead, is required for the better dispatch of business.

A report on the postal business and agencies in foreign countries.

And the Postmaster General shall cause all of such reports to be printed at the Public Printing Office, either together or separately, and in such numbers as may be required by the exigencies of the service or by law.

SEC. 9. That the Postmaster General shall submit to Congress at each annual session a statement of the amount expended during the preceding fiscal year, and an estimate of the amount that will be required for the ensuing fiscal year, under each of the following heads: "Transportation of the mails;" "compensation of postmasters;" "compensation of clerks in postoffices;" "compensation of letter carriers;" "compensation of blank agents and assistants;" "mail depredations and special agents;" "postage stamps and envelopes;" "ship, steamboat, and way letters;" "dead letters;" "mail bags;" "mail locks, keys and stamps;" "wrapping paper;" "office furniture;" "advertising;" "balances to foreign countries;" "rent, light and fuel for postoffices;" "stationery," and "miscellaneous," showing the sums paid under each head, and the names of the persons to whom payments are made out of the miscellaneous fund; but the names of persons employed in detecting depredations on the mail, and of other confidential agents, need not be disclosed.

SEC. 10. That the Postmaster General shall lay before Congress during the first week in each annual session detailed statements of the expenditures made from the contingent fund of his department. He shall also make out and keep, in proper books, full and complete inventories and accounts of all the property belonging to the United States in the buildings, rooms, offices and grounds occupied by him and under his charge, and to add thereto from time to time an account of such property as may be procured, subsequently to the taking of the same, and also an account of the sale or disposal of any such property, and to report the same to Congress as aforesaid; provided, that this section shall not apply to the supplies of stationery and fuel which shall be accounted for as now provided by law.

SEC. 11. That all persons employed in any branch of the postal service shall be exempt from militia duty and from serving on juries, or from any penalty for neglect thereof.

SEC. 12. That no person employed in the Postoffice Department shall become interested in any contract for carrying the mail, or act as agent, with or without compensation, for any contractor or person offering to become a contractor, in any business before the Department; and any person so offending shall be immediately dismissed from office, and shall be liable to pay so much money as would have been realized from said contract, to be recovered in an action of debt, for the use of the Postoffice Department.

SEC. 13. That all bonds taken and contracts entered into by the Postoffice Department shall be made to and with the United States of America.

SEC. 14. That no person employed in the postal service shall receive any fees or perquisites on account of the duties to be performed by virtue of his appointment.

SEC. 15. That before entering upon the duties, and before they shall receive any salary, the Postmaster General and all persons employed in the postal service, shall respectively take and subscribe before some magistrate or other competent officer the following oath or affirmation: "I, A. B., do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will faithfully perform all the duties required of me, and abstain from everything forbidden by the laws in relation to the establishment of postoffices and post roads within the United States; and that I will honestly and truly account for and pay over any money belonging to the said United States which may come into my possession or control; so help me, God." And this oath or affirmation may be taken before any officer, civil or military, holding a commission under the United States, and such officer is hereby authorized to administer and certify such oath or affirmation.

SEC. 16. That every person employed in the postal service shall be subject to all the pains, penalties and forfeitures for violation of the laws relating to such service, whether he has taken the oath or affirmation prescribed in the preceding section or not.

SEC. 17. That telegrams between the several Departments of the government and their officers and agents, in their transmission over the lines of any 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.

SEC. 18. That every order, entry or memorandum whatever, on which any action is to be based, allowance made, or money paid, and every contract, paper or obligation made by or with the Postoffice Department, shall have its true date affixed to it; and every paper relating to contracts or allowances filed in the Department shall have the date when it was filed indorsed upon it.

SEC. 19. That the Postmaster General shall furnish a copy of his annual estimates to the Secretary of the Treasury prior to the first of November in each year, which shall be reported to Congress by the latter in his regular printed estimates.

SEC. 20. That the Postmaster General shall transmit a copy of each postal convention concluded with foreign governments to the Secretary of State, who shall furnish a copy of the same to the congressional printer for publication; and the printed proof-sheets of all such conventions shall be revised at the Postoffice Department.

SEC. 21. That there shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, an Auditor of the Treasury for the Postoffice Department.

SEC. 22. That the said Auditor shall receive all accounts arising in the Postoffice Department, or relative thereto, with the vouchers necessary to a correct adjustment thereof, and shall audit and settle the same, and certify the balances thereon to the Postmaster General. He shall keep and preserve all accounts and vouchers after settlement. He shall close the accounts of the department quarterly, and transmit to the Secretary of the Treasury quarterly statements of its receipts and expenditures. He shall report to the Postmaster General, when required to do so, the manner and form of keeping and stating the accounts of the department, and the official forms of paper to be used in connection with its receipts and expenditures. He shall report to the Postmaster General all delinquencies of postmasters in rendering their accounts and returns, or in paying over money-order funds and other receipts at their offices. He shall register, charge, and countersign all warrants upon the treasury for receipts and payments issued by the Postmaster General, when warranted by law. And he shall perform such other duties in relation to the financial concerns of the Department as may be assigned to him by the Secretary of the Treasury, and make to said Secretary, or to the Postmaster General, such reports respecting the same as either of them may require.

SEC. 23. That the said Auditor shall superintend the collection of all debts due the Department, and all penalties and forfeitures imposed for any violation of the postal laws, and take all such other measures as may be authorized by law to enforce the payment of such debts and the recovery of such penalties and forfeitures. He shall also superintend the collection of all penalties and forfeitures arising under other statutes, where such penalties and forfeitures are the consequence of unlawful acts affecting the revenues or property of the Postoffice Department.

SEC. 24. That the said Auditor, or the mayor of any city, any justice of the peace, or the judge of any court of record, may administer oaths or affirmations in relation to the examination and settlement of the accounts committed to the charge of said Auditor; and if any person shall knowingly swear or affirm falsely touching any expenditure on account of, or claim in favor of or against, said Department, he shall, on conviction thereof, for every such offense, forfeit and pay not exceeding two thousand dollars, and be imprisoned at hard labor not exceeding five years, according to the aggravation of the offense.

SEC. 25. That if either the Postmaster General or the person whose accounts have been settled shall be dissatisfied with the settlement of said Auditor, he may, within twelve months, appeal to the First Controller of the Treasury, whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

SEC. 26. That the Secretary of the Treasury may appoint in the office of the Auditor for the Postoffice Department one chief clerk, nine clerks of class four, forty-four clerks of class three, sixty-four clerks of class two, thirty seven clerks of class one, one messenger, one assistant messenger, and eleven laborers.

SEC. 27. That the annual salaries of the Auditor for the Postoffice Department, and the clerks, messengers and laborers in his office, shall be as follows:

Of the Auditor, three thousand dollars;

Of the chief clerk, two thousand dollars;

Of the clerks of class four, one thousand eight hundred dollars each; and two hundred dollars additional to one of said clerks as disbursing clerk;

Of the clerks of class three, one thousand six hundred dollars each:

Of the clerks of class two, one thousand four hundred dollars each;

Of the clerks of class one, one thousand two hundred dollars each;

Of the messenger, eight hundred and forty dollars;

Of the assistant messenger, seven hundred dollars;

Of the laborers, six hundred dollars each.

SEC. 28. That whenever the office of any postmaster shall become vacant by reason of death, resignation, suspension, or by the expiration of the commission of a postmaster, or his rejection by the Senate, or by the neglect or refusal of any person to take charge of the postoffice to which he is appointed, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General or the President (as the case may be) to supply such vacancy without delay, and it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General promptly to notify the Auditor of the change; and every postmaster and his sureties shall be responsible under their bond for the safe-keeping of the public property of the postoffice, and the due performance of the duties thereof, until the expiration of the commission, or until a successor shall have been duly appointed and qualified, and shall have taken possession of the office: provided, nevertheless, That in cases where there shall be a delay of sixty days in supplying such vacancy, the sureties may terminate their responsibility by giving notice, in writing, to the Postmaster General, such termination to take effect ten days after sufficient time shall have elapsed, to receive a reply from the Postmaster General: And provided also, that the Postmaster General may, when the exigencies of the service require, place such office in charge of a special agent until the vacancy can be regularly filled; and when such special agent shall have taken charge of such postoffice, the liability of the sureties of the postmaster shall cease.

SEC. 29. That all orders and regulations of the Postmaster General which may originate a claim, or in any manner affect the accounts of the postal service, shall be certified to the Auditor for the Postoffice Department.

SEC. 30. That the Postmaster General may establish a blank agency for the Postoffice Department, to be located at Washington, District of Columbia.

SEC. 31. That the Postmaster General may employ two special agents for the Pacific coast, and such number of other special agents as the good of the service and safety of the mail may require.

SEC. 32. That the salary of the special agents of the Postoffice Department shall be at the rate of not more than one thousand six hundred dollars per annum, and they shall be allowed for traveling and incidental expenses, while actually employed in the service a sum not exceeding five dollars a day.

SEC. 33. That whenever a special agent is required to collect or disburse any public money, he shall, before entering upon such duty, give bond in such sum and form and with such security, as the Postmaster General may approve.

SEC. 34. That the Postmaster General may employ, when the service requires it, the Assistant Postmasters General and superintendents in his Department as special agents; and he may allow them therefor not exceeding the amount expended by them as necessary traveling expenses while so employed.

SEC. 35. That the Postmaster General may appoint two agents to superintend the railway postal service, who shall be paid out of the appropriation for the transportation of the mail, at the rate of two thousand five hundred dollars per annum salary, with an allowance for traveling and incidental expenses, while actively employed in the service, of not more than five dollars a day; and the Auditor of the Treasury for the Postoffice Department shall charge to the appropriation for mail transportation the salary and per diem of the assistant superintendents of the postal railway service; and to the appropriation for the free delivery system, the salary and per diem of the special agent detailed for that service; and the salary and per diem of the special agents employed in the money order service shall be paid out of the proceeds of that service.

SEC. 36. That the Postmaster General may establish resident mail agencies at the ports of Panama and Aspinwall (New Grenada), Havana (Cuba), and St. Thomas, and such other foreign ports at which United States mail steamers touch to land and receive mails, as may in his judgment promote the efficiency of the foreign mail service; and may pay the agents employed by him at such ports out of the appropriation for transportation of the mail a reasonable compensation for their services and the necessary expenses for office rent, clerk hire, office furniture and other incidentals, to be allowed him at each of such agencies.

SEC. 37. That the Postmaster General may appoint an agent in charge of the mail on board of each of the mail steamers on the routes between San Francisco, Japan and China, between San Francisco and Honolulu (Hawaiian Islands), and New York and Rio Janeiro, who shall be allowed, out of the appropriation for transportation of the mails, an annual salary of two thousand dollars each.

SEC. 38. That the Postmaster General may establish, in connection with the mail steamship service to Japan and China, a general postal agency at Shanghai, China, or at Yokohama, Japan, with such branch agencies at any other ports in China and Japan as he shall deem necessary for the prompt and efficient management of the postal service in those countries, and he may pay the postal agents employed thereat a reasonable compensation for their services, in addition to the necessary expenses for rent, furniture, clerk hire and incidental expenses.

SEC. 39. That the Postmaster General may employ as many route agents as may be necessary for the prompt and safe transportation of the mail, who shall be paid out of the appropriation for transportation of the mail, at the rate of not less than nine hundred nor more than one thousand two hundred dollars per annum.

SEC. 40. That the Postmaster General may appoint clerks for the purpose of assorting and distributing the mail in railway postoffices, who shall be paid out of the appropriation for transportation of the mail, at the rate of not more than one thousand four hundred dollars per annum to the head clerks, nor more than one thousand two hundred dollars per annum to the other clerks.

SEC. 41. That the accounts of the postal service shall be kept in such a manner as to exhibit the amount of revenues derived respectively from "letter postage;" "book, newspaper, and pamphlet postage;" "registered letters;" "box-rents and branch offices;" "postage-stamps and envelopes;" "dead-letters;" "fines and penalties;" "revenue from money-order business;" and "miscellaneous" and the amount of expenditures for each of the following objects, namely: "Transportation of the mail;" "compensation of postmasters;" "compensation of letter carriers;" "compensation of clerks for postoffices;" "compensation of blank agents and assistants;" "mail depredations and special agents;" "postage stamps and envelopes;" "ship, steamboat and way letters;" "dead letters;" "mail bags;" "mail locks and keys;" and "post-marking and canceling stamps;" "wrapping paper;" "twine;" "letter balances;" "office furniture;" "advertising;" "balances to foreign countries;" "rent, light and fuel for postoffices;" and "stationery" and "miscellaneous."

SEC. 42. That unclaimed money in dead-letter for which no owner can be found; all money taken from the mail by robbery, theft, or otherwise, which may come into the hands of any agent or employe of the United States, or any other person whatever; all fines and penalties imposed for any violation of the postal laws, except such part as may by law belong to the informer or party prosecuting for the same; and all money derived from the sale of waste paper or other public property of the Postoffice Department, shall be deposited in the treasury, under the direction of the Postmaster General, as part of the postal revenue. And the Postmaster General is hereby directed to cause to be placed to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States for the service of the Postoffice Department, the net proceeds of the money order business; and the receipts of the Postoffice Department derived from this source during each quarter shall be entered by the Auditor of the Treasury for the Postoffice Department, in the accounts of said department, under the head of "revenue from money-order business."

SEC. 43. That all postages, box-rents and other receipts at postoffices shall be accounted for as part of the postal revenues; and any part thereof which the postmaster has neglected to collect, he shall be charged with and held accountable for the same as if he had collected it.

SEC. 44. That postmasters may allow box-holders who desire to do so to provide lock boxes or drawers for their own use, at their own expense, which lock boxes or drawers, upon their erection in any postoffice, shall become the property of the United States and be subject to the direction and control of the Postoffice Department, and shall pay a rental at least equal to that of other boxes in the same office, or, if there be no other boxes in such office, of boxes in other offices of the same class, which rental shall be accounted for as other box rents.

SEC. 45. That any officer, agent, postmaster, clerk or other person employed in any branch of the postal service having temporary custody of any money taken from dead letters; any money derived from the sale of waste paper or other public property of the Postoffice Department; or any money derived from any other source which by law is part of the postal revenues, who shall willfully neglect to deposit the same in the treasury of the United States, or in some other depository authorized to receive the same, shall be deemed guilty of embezzlement, and be subject to a fine not exceeding double the sum so retained, or to imprisonment not exceeding three years, or both, at the discretion of the court. And any person entrusted by law with the sale of postage stamps or stamped envelopes, who shall refuse or neglect to account for the same, or who shall pledge or hypothecate or unlawfully dispose of them, for any purpose whatever, shall be deemed guilty of embezzlement, and shall be subject to the same penalty and punishment as are provided in this section for the embezzlement of money.

SEC. 46. That the money required for the postal service in each year shall be appropriated by law out of the revenues of the service.

SEC. 47. That payments of money out of the treasury on account of the postal service shall be in pursuance of appropriations made by law, by warrants of the Postmaster General, registered and countersigned by the Auditor for the Postoffice Department, and expressing on their face the appropriation to which they should be charged.

SEC. 48. That all payments on account of the postal service shall be made to persons to whom the same shall be certified to be due by the Auditor; but advances of necessary sums to defray expenses may be made by the Postmaster General to agents employed to investigate mail depredations, examine post routes and offices, and on other like services, to be charged to them by the Auditor, and to be accounted for in the settlement of their accounts.

SEC. 49. That the Postmaster General may transfer debts due to the Department from postmasters and others to such contractors as have given bonds, with security, to refund any money that may come into their hands over and above the amount found due them on the settlement of their accounts; but such transfers shall only be in satisfaction of legal demands for which appropriations have been made.

SEC. 50. That in all cases where money has been paid out of the funds of the Postoffice Department under the pretense that service has been performed therefor, when, in fact, such service has not been performed, or as additional allowance for increased service actually rendered, when the additional allowance exceeds the sum which, according to law, might rightfully have been allowed therefor, and in all other cases where money of the Department has been paid to any person in consequence of fraudulent representations, or by the mistake, collusion, or misconduct of any officer or other employe in the postal service, the Postmaster General shall cause suit to be brought to recover such wrong or fraudulent payment or excess, with interest thereon.

SEC. 51. That when the Postmaster General is satisfied that money or property stolen from the mail, or the proceeds thereof, has been received at the Department, he may, upon satisfactory evidence as to the owner, deliver the same to him.

SEC. 52. That the Auditor for the Postoffice Department shall state and certify quarterly to the Postmaster General on account of the money paid by postmasters out of the receipts of their offices, and pursuant to appropriations, on account of the expenses of the postal service, designating the heads under which such payments were made.

SEC. 53. That upon the certified quarterly statement by the Auditor for the Postoffice Department of the payment by postmasters on account of the postal service, the Postmaster General shall issue his warrant to the Treasurer to carry the amount to the credit of the postal revenues and to the debit of the proper appropriations upon the books of the Auditor.

SEC. 54. That the postal revenues and all debts due the Postoffice Department, shall, when collected, be paid into the treasury of the United States, under the direction of the Postmaster General; and the Treasurer, assistant treasurer, or designated depositary receiving such payment shall give the depositor duplicate receipts therefor.

SEC. 55. That all deposits on account of the postal service shall be brought into the treasury by warrants of the Postmaster General, countersigned by the Auditor; and no credit shall be allowed for any deposit until such warrant has been issued.

SEC. 56. That the Postmaster General may transfer money belonging to the postal service between the Treasurer, assistant treasurer and designated depositaries, at his discretion, and as the safety of the public money and the convenience of the service may require.

SEC. 57. That all fines and penalties imposed for any violation of any law relating to the Postoffice Department, or of any other law where such violation affects the revenue or property of the Postoffice Department, shall, when collected or recovered, be paid into the treasury, to the credit of the United States for the use of the Postoffice Department, excepting, however, such part thereof as may, by law, belong to the party informing or prosecuting for the same.

SEC. 58. That the Postmaster General may dispose of any quarterly returns of mails sent or received, preserving the accounts current and all accompanying vouchers, and use such portions of the proceeds as may be necessary to defray the cost of separating and disposing of them; but the accounts shall be preserved entire for at least two years.

SEC. 59. That the Postmaster General may provide, by regulations, for the disposition of printed and mailable matter which may remain in any postoffice, or in the Department, not called for by the party addressed; but if the publisher of any refused or uncalled for newspaper or other periodical shall pay the postage due thereon, such newspaper or other periodical shall be excepted from the operation of this section.

SEC. 60. That when any postmaster shall be required to execute a new bond, all payments made by him after the execution of such new bond may, if the Postmaster General or the Auditor shall deem it just, be applied first to discharge any balance which may be due from said postmaster under his old bond.

SEC. 61. That the Postmaster General shall establish postoffices at all such places on post roads established by law as he may deem expedient, and he shall promptly certify such establishment to the Auditor for the Postoffice Department.

SEC. 62. That any person who shall, without authority from the Postmaster General, set up or profess to keep any office or place of business bearing the sign, name, or title of postoffice, shall forfeit and pay, for every such offense, not more than five hundred dollars.

SEC. 63. That postmasters of the fourth and fifth class shall be appointed and may be removed by the Postmaster General, and all others shall be appointed and may be removed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall hold their offices for four years unless sooner removed or suspended according to law, and all appointments and removals shall be notified to the Auditor for the Postoffice Department.

SEC. 64. That every postmaster shall reside within the delivery of the office to which he is appointed.

SEC. 65. That every postmaster, before entering upon the duties of his office, shall give bond, with good and approved security, and in such penalty as the Postmaster General shall deem sufficient, conditioned for the faithful discharge of all duties and trusts imposed on him either by law or the rules and regulations of the Department; and where an office shall be designated as a money-order office, the bond of the postmaster shall contain an additional condition for the faithful performance of all duties and obligations in connection with the money-order business. On the death, resignation, or removal of a postmaster, his bond shall be delivered to the Auditor for the Postoffice Department. The bond of any married woman who may be appointed postmaster shall be binding upon her and her sureties, and she shall be liable for misconduct in office as if she were sole.

SEC. 66. That when any of the sureties of a postmaster shall notify the Postmaster General of their desire to be released from their suretyship, or when the Postmaster General deems a new bond necessary, he shall require the postmaster to execute such new bond, with security, which, when accepted by the Postmaster General, shall be as valid as the bond given upon the original appointment of such postmaster, and the sureties in the prior bond shall be released from responsibility for all acts or defaults of such postmaster which may be done or committed subsequent to the last day of the quarter in which such new bond shall be executed and accepted.

SEC. 67. That if on the settlement of the account of any postmaster it shall appear that he is indebted to the United States, and suit therefor shall not be instituted within three years after the close of such account, the sureties on his bond shall not be liable for such indebtedness.

SEC. 68. That every postmaster shall keep an office in which one or more persons shall be on duty during such hours of each day as the Postmaster General may direct for the purpose of receiving, delivering, making up and forwarding all mail matter received thereat.

SEC. 69. That all letters brought to any postoffice half an hour before the time for the departure of the mail shall be forwarded therein; but at offices where, in the opinion of the Postmaster General, more time for making up the mail is required, he may prescribe accordingly, not exceeding one hour.

SEC. 70. That the Postmaster General shall furnish to the postmasters at the termination of each route a schedule of the time of arrival and departure of the mail at their offices, respectively, to be posted in a conspicuous place in the office; and the Postmaster General shall also give the postmaster notice of any change in the arrival and departure that may be ordered; and he shall cause to be kept and returned to the Department, at short and regular intervals, registers, showing the exact times of the arrivals and departures of the mail.

SEC. 71. That every postmaster shall keep a record, in such form as the Postmaster General shall direct, of all postage stamps and envelopes, and of all postal books, blanks, and property received from his predecessor, or from the Department or any of its agents; and also of all receipts in money for postages and box rents, and of all other receipts on account of the postal service, and of any other transactions which may be required by the Postmaster General; and these records shall be preserved and delivered to his successor, and shall be at all times subject to examination by any special agent of the Department.

SEC. 72. That each postmaster shall render to the Postmaster General, under oath, and in such form as the latter shall prescribe, a quarterly account of all moneys received or charged by him or at his office, for postage, rent of boxes or other receptacles for mail matter, or by reason of keeping a branch office, or for the delivery of mail matter in any manner whatever.

SEC. 73. That the Postmaster General may require a sworn statement to accompany each quarterly account of a postmaster, to the effect that such account contains a true statement of the entire amount of postage, box rents, charges, and moneys collected or received at his office during the quarter; that he has not knowingly delivered, or permitted to be delivered, any mail matter on which the postage was not at the time paid; that such account exhibits truly and faithfully the entire receipts collected at his office, and which, by due diligence, could have been collected; and that the credits he claims are just and right. And any false swearing therein shall render him liable to the pains and penalties of perjury.

SEC. 74. That if any postmaster shall neglect to render his accounts, for one month after the time, and in the form and manner prescribed by law and the regulations of the Postmaster General, such postmaster and his sureties shall forfeit and pay double the amount of the gross receipts at said office during any previous or subsequent equal period of time, and if, at the time of trial, no account shall have been rendered, they shall forfeit and pay such sum as the court and jury shall estimate to be equivalent thereto, to be recovered in an action of debt on the bond.

SEC. 75. That postmasters shall keep safely, without loaning, using, depositing in an unauthorized bank, or exchanging for other funds, all the public money collected by them, or which may come into their possession, until it is ordered by the Postmaster General to be transferred or paid out.

SEC. 76. That the postmaster at Washington and postmasters at cities where there is an assistant treasurer shall deposit the postal revenues and all money accruing at their office with such assistant treasurer as often as once a week at least, and as much oftener as the Postmaster General may direct.

SEC. 77. That postmasters shall promptly report to the Postmaster General every delinquency, neglect or malpractice of the contractors, their agents, or carriers, which may come to their knowledge.

SEC. 78. That no postmaster, assistant postmaster, or clerk employed in any postoffice shall be a contractor or concerned in any contract for carrying the mail.

SEC. 79. That no postmaster shall act as agent for any lottery office, or under any color of purchase, or otherwise, vend lottery tickets; nor shall he receive or send any lottery scheme, circular, or ticket free of postage; and for any violation of the provisions of this section the person offending shall forfeit and pay fifty dollars.

SEC. 80. That the compensation of postmasters shall be a fixed annual salary, to be divided into five classes, exclusive of the postmaster at New York city, whose salary shall be six thousand dollars per annum. The salary of the first class shall be not more than four thousand dollars nor less than three thousand dollars; of the second class, less than three thousand dollars, but not less than two thousand dollars; of the third class, less than two thousand dollars, but not less than one thousand dollars; of the fourth class, less than one thousand dollars, but not less than two hundred dollars; of the fifth class, less than two hundred dollars; and the salaries of the first, second, and third classes, shall be in even hundreds of dollars; of the fourth class, in even tens of dollars, and of the fifth class, in even dollars.

SEC. 81. That at all newly established offices, the Postmaster General may temporarily fix the salary until the returns of such offices shall enable him to properly adjust the same, but the compensation shall in no case be thus temporarily fixed at more than the salary of an office of the fifth class.

SEC. 82. That the salaries of postmasters shall be readjusted by the Postmaster General once in two years, and in special cases as much oftener as he may deem expedient; and when the quarterly returns of any postmaster of the third, fourth or fifth class show that the salary allowed is twenty per centum less than it would be on the basis of commission, the Postmaster General shall readjust the same.

SEC. 83. That in readjusting the salary of a postmaster, the amount thereof shall be ascertained by adding to the whole amount of box rents, commissions on the other postal revenues of the office at the following rates: On the first one hundred dollars or less, sixty per centum; on all over one hundred dollars, and not over four hundred dollars, fifty per centum; on all over four hundred dollars and not over two thousand four hundred dollars, forty per centum; on all over two thousand four hundred dollars, fifteen per centum. And in order to ascertain the amount of the postal receipts at each office, the Postmaster General shall require postmasters to state, under oath, at such times and for such periods as he may deem necessary in each case, the amount of stamps canceled, the amount of box-rents received, the amount of unpaid postages collected, and the amount of postage on printed and other mailable matter; provided, however, that whenever, by reason of the extension of free delivery of letters, the box-rents of any postoffice are decreased, the Postmaster General may allow, out of the receipts of such office, a sum sufficient to maintain the salary thereof at the amount at which it had been fixed before the decrease in box-rents.

SEC. 84. That the Postmaster General shall make all orders assigning or changing the salaries of postmasters in writing, and record them in his journal, and notify the change to the Auditor; and any change made in such salaries shall not take effect until the first day of the quarter next following such order; provided, that in cases of an extraordinary increase or decrease in the business of any postoffice, the Postmaster General may adjust the salary of the postmaster at such postoffice, to take effect from the first day of the quarter or period the returns for which form the basis of re-adjustment.

SEC. 85. That no postmaster shall, under any pretense whatever, have, receive, or retain for himself, in the aggregate, more than the amount of his salary and his commission on the money-order business as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 86. That the Postmaster General may designate offices at the intersection of mail routes as distributing or separating offices; and where any such office is of the third, fourth, or fifth class, he may make a reasonable allowance to the postmaster for the necessary cost of clerical services arising from such duties.

SEC. 87. That the Postmaster General may allow to the postmaster at New York city, and to the postmasters at offices of the first and second classes, out of the surplus revenues of their respective offices, that is to say, the excess of box rents and commissions over and above the salary assigned to the office, a reasonable sum for the necessary cost of rent, fuel, lights, furniture, stationery, printing, clerks, and necessary incidentals, to be adjusted on a satisfactory exhibit of the facts, and no such allowance shall be made except upon the order of the Postmaster General.

SEC. 88. That the salary of a postmaster, and such other expenses of the postal service authorized by law as may be incurred by him, and for which appropriations have been made, may be deducted out of the receipts of his office, under the direction of the Postmaster General.

SEC. 89. That vouchers for all deductions made by a postmaster out of the receipts of his office, on account of the expenses of the postal service, shall be submitted for examination and settlement to the Auditor for the Postoffice Department, and no such deduction shall be valid unless found to be in conformity with law.

SEC. 90. That whenever, by reason of the presence of a military or naval force near any postoffice, or from any other cause, unusual business accrues thereat, the Postmaster General shall make a special order allowing reasonable compensation for clerical service, and a proportionate increase of salary to the postmaster during the time of such extraordinary business.

SEC. 91. That the Postmaster General may discontinue any postoffice where the safety and security of the postal service and revenues are endangered from any cause whatever, or where the efficiency of the service shall require such discontinuance, and he shall promptly certify such discontinuance to the Auditor for the Postoffice Department.

SEC. 92. That letter carriers shall be employed for the free delivery of mail matter, as frequently as the public convenience may require, at every place containing a population of fifty thousand within the delivery of its postoffice, and at such other places as the Postmaster General may direct.

SEC. 93. That the salary of letter carriers shall be fixed by the Postmaster General, and shall not exceed eight hundred dollars per annum; but on satisfactory evidence of diligence, fidelity and experience, he may increase their salary to any sum not exceeding one thousand dollars per annum; and in San Francisco, California, he may pay such additional salaries to carriers as will secure the services of competent persons.

SEC. 94. That the Postmaster General may prescribe a uniform dress to be worn by letter carriers, and any person not connected with the letter carrier branch of the postal service who shall wear the uniform which may be prescribed shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, for every such offense, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than six months, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 95. That the Postmaster General may establish, in places where letter carriers are employed, and also in other places where, in his judgment, the public convenience requires it, receiving-boxes for the deposit of mail matter, and shall cause the matter deposited therein to be collected as often as public convenience may require.

SEC. 96. That any person who shall willfully and maliciously injure, tear down or destroy any letter-box, pillar-box or other receptacle established by the Postmaster General for the safe deposit of matter for the mail or for delivery, or who shall willfully or maliciously assault any letter carrier, when in uniform, while engaged on his route in the discharge of his duty as a letter carrier, and any person who shall willfully aid or assist therein, shall, on conviction thereof, for every such offense, forfeit and pay not less than one hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one nor more than three years, according to the circumstances and aggravation of the offense.

SEC. 97. That each letter-carrier shall give bonds with sureties, to be approved by the Postmaster General, for the safe custody and delivery of all mail matter, and the faithful account and payment of all money received by him.

SEC. 98. That the Postmaster General, when the public convenience requires it, may establish within any postoffice delivery one or more branch offices, for the receipt and delivery of mail matter and the sale of stamps and envelopes; and he shall prescribe the rules and regulations for the government thereof. But no letter shall be sent for delivery to any branch office contrary to the request of the party to whom it is addressed.

SEC. 99. That the rate of postage on newspapers, except weeklies, periodicals not exceeding two ounces in weight, and circulars when the same are deposited in a letter carrier office for delivery by the office or its carriers, shall be uniform at one cent each; but periodicals weighing more than two ounces shall be subject to a postage of two cents each, and these rates shall be prepaid by stamps.

SEC. 100. That no extra postage or carrier's fee's shall be charged or collected upon any mail matter collected or delivered by carriers.

SEC. 101. That all expenses of letter carriers, branch offices and receiving boxes, or incident thereto, shall be kept and reported in a separate account, and shall be shown in comparison with the proceeds from postage on local mail matter at each office, and the Postmaster General shall be guided in the expenditures for this branch of the service by the income derived therefrom.

SEC. 102. That to promote public convenience, and to insure