

same may be paid out of the fund for the relief of refugees and freedmen, on the approval of the commissioner of the bureau of refugees and freedmen.

APPROVED, June 15, 1866.

June 15, 1866. CHAP. CXXIV. — *An Act to facilitate commercial, postal, and military Communication among the several States.*

Preamble.

Whereas the Constitution of the United States confers upon Congress, in express terms, the power to regulate commerce among the several States, to establish post roads, and to raise and support armies: Therefore: —

Steam rail-roads may carry over their road passengers and freight from one State to another and connect with roads of other States to form continuous lines.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That every railroad company in the United States, whose road is operated by steam, its successors and assigns, be, and is hereby, authorized to carry upon and over its road, boats, bridges, and ferries, all passengers, troops, government supplies, mails, freight, and property on their way from any State to another State, and to receive compensation therefor, and to connect with roads of other States so as to form continuous lines for the transportation of the same to the place of destination: *Provided,* That this act shall not affect any stipulation between the government of the United States and any railroad company for transportation or fares without compensation, nor impair or change the conditions imposed by the terms of any act granting lands to any such company to aid in the construction of its road, nor shall it be construed to authorize any railroad company to build any new road or connection with any other road without authority from the State in which said railroad or connection may be proposed.

Existing contracts and conditions not affected.

New roads not authorized without authority from State.

This act may be amended, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That Congress may at any time alter, amend, or repeal this act.

APPROVED, June 15, 1866.

June 18, 1866. CHAP. CXXVI. — *An Act to authorize the Commissioner of Patents to pay those employed as Examiners and Assistant Examiners the Salary fixed by Law for the Duties performed by them.*

Pay of those employed as examiners and assistant examiners in the patent office.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the commissioner of patents is hereby authorized to pay those employed in the patent office from April first, eighteen [hundred] and sixty-one, until the first day of August, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, as examiners and assistant examiners of patents, at the rates fixed by law for these respective grades; *Provided,* That the same be paid out of the patent office fund, and that the compensation thus paid shall not exceed that received by those duly enrolled as examiners and assistant examiners of patents for the same period.

To be taken from patent office fund, &c.

APPROVED, June 18, 1866.

June 21, 1866. CHAP. CXXVII. — *An Act for the Disposal of the Public Lands for Homestead Actual Settlement in the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Florida.*

All public lands in certain States to be disposed of only according to the provisions of the homestead law. 1862, ch. 75. Vol. xii. p. 392. 1864, ch. 38. Vol. xiii. p. 35.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That from and after the passage of this act all the public lands in the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Florida shall be disposed of according to the stipulations of the homestead law of twentieth May, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, entitled "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," and the act supplemental thereto, approved twenty-first of March, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, but with this restriction, that until the expiration of two years from and after the passage of this