wilfully and maliciously injure, tear down, or destroy any letter-box, pillar-box, or other receiving-boxes established by authority of the Postmaster-General of the United States for the safe deposit of matter for the mails and for delivery; or shall wilfully aid and assist in injuring, tearing down, or destroying any such box or boxes, every such offender, being thereof duly convicted, shall, for every such offence, be fined not less than one hundred, nor more than one thousand dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one year, nor more than three years, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offence. And if any clerk or other person employed in any of the departments of the post-office establishment shall wilfully and unlawfully remove from any letter posted at or received in any post-office or branch post-office, established by authority of the Postmaster-General of the United States, any postage-stamp or stamps affixed thereto in payment of postage, every such offender, being thereof duly convicted, shall, for every such offence, be fined not more than one hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than six months, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offence.

SEC. 14. And be it further enacted, That the yearly advertisement for proposals to carry the mails of the United States shall be published hereafter for a period of six weeks in one or more, but not to exceed five, newspapers, printed in the state or territory where the mail service is to be performed, one of which shall be printed at the seat of government of such state or territory.

SEC. 15. And be it further enacted, That nothing contained in the act entitled "An act to amend the laws relating to the Post-Office Department," approved March third, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, shall be so construed as to repeal or modify the second section of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-one," for the delivery of letters and other mail matter from post-offices where the system of free delivery by carriers has not been established: Provided, nevertheless, and it is hereby further enacted, That the system of free delivery shall be established in every place containing a population of fifty thousand within the delivery of the office thereof, and at such other places as the Postmaster-General in his judgment shall direct: And provided, further, That the prepayment postage on drop-letters in all places where free delivery is not established shall be one cent only.

SEC. 16. And be it further enacted, That no obscene book, pamphlet, picture, print, or other publication of a vulgar and indecent character, shall be admitted into the mails of the United States; any person or persons who shall deposit or cause to be deposited, in any post-office or branch post-office of the United States, for mailing or for delivery, an obscene book, pamphlet, picture, print, or other publication, knowing the same to be of a vulgar and indecent character, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, being duly convicted thereof, shall for every such offence be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offence.

APPROVED, March 8, 1865.

CHAP. X.C. — An Act to establish a Bureau for the Relief of Freedmen and Refugees.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby established in the War Department, to continue during the present war of rebellion, and for one year thereafter, a bureau of refugees, freedmen, and abandoned lands, to which shall be committed, as hereinafter provided, the supervision and management of all abandoned lands, and the control of all subjects relating to refugees and freedmen from rebel states, or from any district of country within the territory embraced in the operations of the
army, under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the head of the bureau and approved by the President. The said bureau shall be under the management and control of a commissioner to be appointed by the President, and with the advice and consent of the Senate, whose compensation shall be three thousand dollars per annum, and such number of clerks as may be assigned to him by the Secretary of War, not exceeding one chief clerk, two of the fourth class, two of the third class, and five of the first class. And the commissioner and all persons appointed under this act, shall, before entering upon their duties, take the oath of office prescribed in an act entitled “An act to prescribe an oath of office, and for other purposes,” approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and the commissioner and the chief clerk shall, before entering upon their duties, give bonds to the treasurer of the United States, the former in the sum of fifty thousand dollars, and the latter in the sum of ten thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful discharge of their duties respectively, with securities to be approved as sufficient by the Attorney-General, which bonds shall be filed in the office of the first comptroller of the treasury, to be by him put in suit for the benefit of any injured party upon any breach of the conditions thereof.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of War may direct such issues of provisions, clothing, and fuel for refugees and freedmen, &c.

Assistant commissioner for each state in insurrection.

Pay. Military officers may be assigned to this duty.

Annual and special reports of commissioners.

Assistant commissioners to report quarterly.

Abandoned lands in insurrectionary states may be set apart for refugees and freedmen.

Limit of land assigned.

Rent.

Occupants may purchase.
ascertained and fixed for the purpose of determining the annual rent aforesaid.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

APPROVED, March 8, 1865.

CHAP. XCI.—An Act to incorporate a national military and naval Asylum for the Relief of the totally disabled Officers and Men of the Volunteer Forces of the United States.


SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said corporation hereby constituted shall consist of one hundred members. They shall have power to fill all vacancies created by death, resignation, or otherwise, and to make by-laws, rules, and regulations: Provided, That such by-laws, rules, and regulations are not repugnant to the constitution or laws of the United States.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That the business of said corporation shall be managed by a board of twelve directors, who shall elect from their number a president, two vice-presidents, and a secretary; and seven of the directors, of whom the president or one of the vice-presidents shall be one, shall form a quorum for the transaction of business at any special meeting of the board of directors.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That the board of directors shall have authority to procure for early use, at a suitable place, a site for a military asylum for officers and men of the volunteer forces of the United States who have been or may hereafter be totally disabled by wounds received or sickness contracted while in the line of their duty during the present rebellion; and to have the necessary buildings erected, having due regard to the health of the location, facility of access, and competency to accommodate the persons provided for in this act.