Arrive at Mocksville next day by 6 p m;
Bond required with bid, $300.

13315 From Elkin, by State Road, Roaring Gap, and Laurel Branch, to Cherry Lane, 22¼ miles and back, once a week.
Leave Elkin Friday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Cherry Lane by 12 m;
Leave Cherry Lane Friday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Elkin by 7 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13316 From Dellaplane, by Roaring River, Woodruff's, Elkin, and Rusk, to Dobson, 33 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Dellaplane Wednesday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Dobson next day by 12 m;
Leave Dobson Thursday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Dellaplane next day by 12 m.
Bond required with bid, $300.

13317 From Huntsville, by Yadkinville, Chesnut Ridge, and Jonesville, to Elkin, 27 miles and back, three times a week.
Leave Huntsville Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Elkin by 6 p m;
Leave Elkin Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Huntsville by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $500.

13318 From Hamptonville, by New Castle and Dellaplane, to Wilkesborough, 26 miles and back, twice a week.
Leave Hamptonville Tuesday and Thursday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Wilkesborough by 5 p m;
Leave Wilkesborough Wednesday and Friday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Hamptonville by 5 p m.
Bond required with bid, $500.

13319 From Hamptonville, by Zion, Union Grove, Jenning's Mills, New Hope, Mount Pisgah, and York Collegiate Institute, to Taylorsville, 40 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Hamptonville Saturday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Taylorsville by 6 p m;
Leave Taylorsville Friday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Hamptonville by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $400.

13320 From Hamptonville to Yadkinville, 8 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Hamptonville Saturday at 8 a m;
Arrive at Yadkinville by 11 a m;
Leave Yadkinville Saturday at 2.30 p m;
Arrive at Hamptonville by 5.30 p m.
Bond required with bid, $100.

13321 From Wilkesborough, by Elkville, Fort Defiance, Lenoir, Tuttle's Cross Roads, and Copenhagen, to Morganton, 48 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Wilkesborough Monday at 8 a m;
Arrive at Morganton next day by 12 m;
Leave Morganton Tuesday at 2 p m;
Arrive at Wilkesborough next day by 7 p m.
Bond required with bid, $500.

13322 From Wilkesborough, by Hay Meadow, Dockery, Trap Hill, Cherry Lane, Glade Creek, Gap Civil, and Piney Creek, to Mouth-of-Wilson (Va.), 50 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Wilkesborough Thursday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Mouth-of-Wilson next day by 7 p m;
Leave Mouth-of-Wilson Saturday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Wilkesborough Monday by 12 m.
Bond required with bid, $500.

13323 From Wilkesborough, by Mulberry, Hall's Mills, Laurel Springs, Scottville, and New River, to Mouth-of-Wilson (Va.), 40 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Wilkesborough Thursday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Mouth-of-Wilson next day by 5 p m;
Leave Mouth-of-Wilson Friday at 8 am;
Arrive at Wilkesborough next day by 12 m.
Bond required with bid, $400.

13324 From Wilkesborough, by Purlear's Creek, Stony Hill, Gap Creek, Stony Fork, Boone, Maple Springs, and Lewis Fork, to Wilkesborough, equal to 40 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Wilkesborough Monday at 5 a m;
Arrive at Boone by 7 p m.
Leave Boone Tuesday at 5 a m;
Arrive at Wilkesborough by 7 p m;
Bond required with bid, $400.

13325 From Wilkesborough, by Reddie's River, Wilbar, and South Fork to Jefferson, 34½ miles and back, three times a week.
Leave Wilkesborough Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Jefferson by 6 p m;
Leave Jefferson Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Wilkesborough by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $600.

13326 From Wilkesborough, by Hunting Creek, Zimmerman, and Union Grove, to Olin, 27¾ miles and back, once a week.
Leave Wilkesborough Friday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Olin by 4 p m;
Leave Olin Saturday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Wilkesborough by 4 p m.
Bond required with bid, $300.

13327 From Lenoir to Boone, 30 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Lenoir Friday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Boone by 5 p m;
Leave Boone Saturday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Lenoir by 5 p m.
Bond required with bid, $300.

13328 From Boone, by Valley Crucis to Cranberry Forge, 22 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Boone Wednesday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Cranberry Forge by 4 p m;
Leave Cranberry Forge Thursday at 6 a m,
Arrive at Boone by 4 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13329 From Boone to Blowing Rock, 8 miles and back, twice a week.
Leave Boone Wednesday and Saturday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Blowing Rock by 10 a m;
Leave Blowing Rock Wednesday and Saturday at 2.30 p m;
Arrive at Boone by 5 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13330 From Globe to Blowing Rock, 9½ miles and back, once a week.
Leave Globe Friday at 10 a m;
Arrive at Blowing Rock by 1 p m;
Leave Blowing Rock Wednesday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Globe by 3 p m.
Bond required with bid, $100.

13331 From Jefferson, by Shady Springs, Elk Cross Roads, Moretz's Mills, and Boone, to Sugar Grove, 32¼ miles and back, once a week.
Leave Jefferson Thursday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Sugar Grove by 6 p m;
Leave Sugar Grove Friday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Jefferson by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $300.

13332 From Jefferson, by Nathan's Creek, Chestnut Hill, and Weaversford, to Mouth-of-Wilson (Va.), 19 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Jefferson Wednesday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Mouth-of-Wilson by 12 m;
Leave Mouth-of-Wilson Wednesday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Jefferson by 7 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13333 From Jefferson to Horse Creek, 14¾ miles and back, once a week.
Leave Jefferson Saturday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Horse Creek by 6 p m;
Leave Horse Creek Saturday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Jefferson by 11 a m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13334 From Jefferson, by Walnut Hill, to Helton, 11 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Jefferson Saturday at 12 m;
Arrive at Helton by 4 p m;
Leave Helton Saturday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Jefferson by 11 a m.
Bond required with bid, $100.

13335 From Helton to Mouth-of-Wilson (Va.), 9 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Helton Thursday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Mouth-of-Wilson by 10 a m;
Leave Mouth-of-Wilson Thursday at 11 am;
Arrive at Helton by 2 p m.
Bond required with bid, $100.

13336 From Burnsville, by Day Book, Green Mountain, Red Hill, Fork Mountain, Limestone Cove (Tenn.), Hampton, and Gap Run, to Elizabethton, 51 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Burnsville Thursday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Elizabethton next day by 12 m;
Leave Elizabethton Friday at 1 p m:
Arrive at Burnsville next day by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $500.

13337 From Burnsville, by Bald Creek, Ivy, Democrat, Lockhart's, Stocksville, and Weaverville, to Asheville, 38 miles and back, twice a week.
Leave Burnsville Tuesday and Friday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Asheville by 6 p m;
Leave Asheville Wednesday and Saturday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Burnsville by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $700.

13338 From Burnsville, by Micaville, Flinty Branch, Spruce Pine, Grassy Creek, and Mica, to Marion, 38 miles and back, twice a week.
Leave Burnsville Tuesday and Friday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Marion by 7 p m;
Leave Marion Wednesday and Saturday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Burnsville by 7 p m.
Bond required with bid, $700.

13339 From Bakersville, by Ledger, to Burnsville, 16 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Bakersville Wednesday at 2 p m;
Arrive at Burnsville by 7 p m;
Leave Burnsville Wednesday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Bakersville by 12 m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13340 From Bakersville, by Hawk Mine and Plumtree, to Cranberry Forge, 24 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Bakersville Wednesday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Cranberry Forge by 6 p m;
Leave Cranberry Forge Thursday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Bakersville by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $300.

13341 From Bakersville, by Little Rock Creek and Fork Mountain, to Johnson City (Tenn.), 38 miles and back, twice a week.
Leave Bakersville Monday and Friday at 5 a m;
Arrive at Johnson City by 5 p m;
Leave Johnson City Tuesday and Saturday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Bakersville by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $700.

13342 From Mica to Cranberry Forge, 22 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Mica Thursday at 8 a m;
Arrive at Cranberry Forge by 4 p m;
Leave Cranberry Forge Friday at 8 a m;
Arrive at Mica by 4 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13343 From Ivy, by Walnut Mountain and Little Creek, to Flag Pond (Tenn.), 15 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Ivy Monday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Flag Pond by 12 m;
Leave Flag Pond Monday at 1 p m:
Arrive at Ivy by 7 p m.
Bond required with bid, $100.

13344 From Day Book, by Ramsey Town, and Hollow Poplar, to Swingleville (Tenn.), 25 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Day Book Monday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Swingleville by 5 p m;
Leave Swingleville Tuesday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Day Book by 5 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13345 From Ramseytown, by Bee Log, to Bald Creek, 15 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Ramseytown Monday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Bald Creek by 12 m;
Leave Bald Creek Monday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Ramseytown by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13346 From Forks-of-Pigeon to Pigeon River, 5 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Forks-of-Pigeon Friday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Pigeon River by 8 a m;
Leave Pigeon River Friday at 9 a m;
Arrive at Forks-of-Pigeon by 11 a m.
Bond required with bid, $100.

13347 From Stony Fork, by Soda Hill, to Trade (Tenn.), 22 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Stony Fork Wednesday at 11 a m;
Arrive at Trade by 6 p m;
Leave Trade Thursday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Stony Fork by 2 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13348 From Solitude to Trade (Tenn.), 12 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Solitude Monday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Trade by 12 m;
Leave Trade Monday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Solitude by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13349 From East Laporte to Cherryfield, 35 miles and back, once a week.
Leave East Laporte Thursday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Cherryfield by 6 p m;
Leave Cherryfield Friday at 6 a m;
Arrive at East Laporte by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $300.

13350 From Hendersonville, by Boman's Bluff, Calhoun, Davidson's River, Brevard, Cathey's Creek, Cherryfield, and Hogback Valley, to Casher's Valley, 55 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Hendersonville Thursday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Casher's Valley next day by 12 m;
Leave Casher's Valley Friday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Hendersonville next day by 7 p m.
Bond required with bid, $500.

13351 From Hendersonville to Forks-of-Pigeon, 43 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Hendersonville Monday at 12 m;
Arrive at Forks-of-Pigeon next day by 5 pm;
Leave Forks-of-Pigeon Wednesday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Hendersonville next day by 12 m.
Bond required with bid, $400.

13352 From Hendersonville, by Tryon, Columbus, Mills Spring, Bear Wallow, Edneyville, and Blue Ridge, to Hendersonville, equal to 30½ miles and back, once a week.
Leave Hendersonville Monday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Columbus Tuesday by 10 a m;
Leave Columbus Tuesday at 11 a m;
Arrive at Hendersonville by 7 p m.
Bond required with bid, $300.

13353 From Hendersonville to Cedar Mountain, 22 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Hendersonville Friday at 10 a m:
Arrive at Cedar Mountain by 5 p m;
Leave Cedar Mountain Saturday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Hendersonville by 2 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13354 From Asheville, by Laurel Fork, Turnpike, Pigeon River, Pigeon Valley, Richland Valley, Waynesville, Caler's Hill, Webster, Franklin, Aquone, Valleytown, Marble Spring, and Tomatola, to Murphy, 123½ miles and back, six times a week.
Leave Asheville daily, except Sunday, at 8 a m;
Arrive at Murphey by 6 p m;
Leave Murphey daily, except Sunday, at 7 a m;
Arrive at Asheville by 7 p m.
Bond required with bid, $5,000.

13355 From Asheville, by Glencoe, Avery's Creek, Mill River, Boilston, Claytonville, Davidson's River, Brevard, Dunn's Rock, Cedar Mountain, Middle Saluda (S. C.), Marietta, and White Horse, to Greenville C. H., 82 miles and back, twice a week.
Leave Asheville Monday and Thursday at 5 p m;
Arrive at Greenville C. H. Wednesday and Saturday by 6 p m;
Leave Greenville C. H. Wednesday and Saturday at 7 p m;
Arrive at Asheville Monday and Friday by 4 p m.
Bond required with bid, $1,000.

13356 From Asheville, by Leicester, Sandy Mush, Cross Rock, Spring Creek, Fine's Creek, Crab Tree, and Jonathan's Creek, to Waynesville, 65 miles and back, twice a week.
Leave Asheville Monday and Thursday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Waynesville Wednesday and Saturday by 1 p m;
Leave Waynesville Wednesday and Saturday at 1.30 p m;
Arrive at Asheville Monday and Thursday by 1 p m.
Bond required with bid, $800.

13357 From Asheville, by Paint Gap (n. o.) and Ivy Gap (n. o.), to Burnsville, 36 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Asheville Saturday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Burnsville by 6 p m;
Leave Burnsville Friday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Asheville by 6p m.
Bond required with bid, $400.

13358 From Marshall, by Walnut Run, Big Laurel, White Rock, Peach Grove (Tenn.), and Unaka, to Greenville, 42 miles and back, three times a week.
Leave Marshall Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Greenville by 8 p m;
Leave Greenville Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Marshall by 8 p m.
Bond required with bid, $500.

13359 From Marshall, by Halewood, Mars Hill, and Grantville, to Stocksville, 20 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Marshall Monday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Stocksville by 12 m;
Leave Stocksville Monday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Marshall by 7 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13360 From Warm Springs, by Marshall, French Broad, Riverside, Asheville, Busbee, Shufordsville, Hendersonville, Flat Rock, Lima (S. C.), Belleview, and Traveller's Rest, to Greenville C. H., 98 miles and back, six times a week.
Leave Warm Springs daily, except Sunday, at 8 a m;
Arrive at Asheville by 8 p m;
Leave Asheville daily, except Sunday, at 8 a m;
Arrive at Warm Springs by 6 p m;
Leave Asheville daily, except Sunday, at 8 a m;
Arrive at Greenville C. H. by 6 p m;
Leave Greenville C. H. daily, except Sunday, at 8 a m;
Arrive at Asheville by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $5,000.

13361 From Warm Springs, by Lee, to Spring Creek, 18 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Warms Springs Saturday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Spring Creek by 12 m;
Leave Spring Creek Saturday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Warm Springs by 7 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13362 From Lee to Wolf Creek (Tenn.), 15 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Lee Friday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Wolf Creek by 12 m;
Leave Wolf Creek Friday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Lee by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13363 From Lee to Big Creek (Tenn.), 24 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Lee Monday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Big Creek by 5 p m;
Leave Big Creek Tuesday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Lee by 5 a m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13364 From Waynesville, by Ivy Hill, Quallatown, Junaluska, Charleston, Nantahalah, Stecoah, and Rollinsville, to Valleytown, 83 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Waynesville Tuesday at 5 p m;
Arrive at Valleytown Friday at 4.30 p m;
Leave Valleytown Friday at 5 p m;
Arrive at Waynesville Tuesday by 4 p m.
Bond required with bid, $800.

13365 From Waynesville, by Jonathan's Creek, Catalooche, Mount Sterling, Big Creek (Tenn.), Crosby, and Wilton Springs, to Newport, 62 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Waynesville Wednesday at 7 a m;
Arrrive at Newport next day by 5 p m;
Leave Newport Friday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Waynesville next day by 5 p m.
Bond required with bid, $600.

13366 From Franklin, by Wickle's Store, Head-of-Tennessee, Clayton (Ga.), War Woman, Whetstone, and Tunnel Hill (S. C.), to Walhalla, 51 miles and back, twice a week.
Leave Franklin Monday and Thursday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Walhalla next days by 12 m;
Leave Walhalla Tuesday and Friday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Franklin next days by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $1,000.

13367 From Franklin, by Nantahalah, Forney's Creek, and Forks of Tennessee, to Chilhowee, 69 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Franklin Thursday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Chilhowee next day by 6 p m;
Leave Chilhowee Friday at 6.15 p m;
Arrive at Nantahalah Sunday by 8 a m;
Leave Nantahalah Wednesday at 8 a m;
Arrive at Franklin by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $700.

13368 From Casher's Valley, by Horse Cove and Pine Mountain, to Clayton (Ga.), 31 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Casher's Valley Monday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Clayton by 6 p m;
Leave Clayton Tuesday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Casher's Valley by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $300.

13369 From Casher's Valley to Walhalla (S. C.), 34 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Casher's Valley Monday at 5 a m;
Arrive at Walhalla by 7 p m;
Leave Walhalla Tuesday at 5 a m;
Arrive at Casher's Valley by 7 p m.
Bond required with bid, $300.

13370 From Charleston to Nantahalah, 6 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Charleston Wednesday at 8 a m;
Arrive at Nantahalah by 10 a m;
Leave Nantahalah Wednesday at 11 a m;
Arrive at Charleston by 1 p m.
Bond required with bid, $100.

13371 From Rollinsville to Chilhowee (Tenn.), 40 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Rollinsville Monday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Chilhowee by 6 p m;
Leave Chilhowee Tuesday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Rollinsville by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $400.

13372 From Aquone, by Tusquittee Vale, to Hayesville, 18 miles and back, twice a week.
Leave Aquone Tuesday and Friday at 12 m;
Arrive at Hayesville by 6 p m;
Leave Hayesville Tuesday and Friday at 5 a m;
Arrive at Aquone by 11 a m.
Bond required with bid, $400.

13373 From Hayesville to Shooting Creek, 9 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Hayesville Friday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Shooting Creek by 11 a m;
Leave Shooting Creek Friday at 12 m;
Arrive at Hayesville by 5 p m.
Bond required with bid, $100.

13374 From Murphey, by Persimmon Creek, England's Point, and Wolf Creek to Ducktown (Tenn.), 29 miles and back, three times a week.
Leave Murphey Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Ducktown by 5 p m;
Leave Ducktown Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Murphey by 5 p m.
Bond required with bid, $800.

13375 From Murphey to Kilpatrick's, 20 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Murphey Saturday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Kilpatrick's by 7 p m;
Leave Kilpatrick's Saturday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Murphey by 12 m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13376 From Murphey, by Ivy Log, to Blairsville (Ga.), 23 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Murphey Saturday at 5 a m;
Arrive at Blairsville by 12 m;
Leave Blairsville Saturday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Murphey by 8 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13377 From Murphey to Morganton (Ga.), 22 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Murphey Friday at 8 a m;
Arrive at Morganton by 6 p m;
Leave Morganton Saturday at 8 a m;
Arrive at Murphey by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13378 From Murphey, by Grape Creek, Beaver, and Coker Creek, to Tellico Plains (Tenn.), 38 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Murphey Thursday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Tellico Plains by 6 p m;
Leave Tellico Plains Friday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Murphey by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $300.

13379 From Murphey, by Brasstown, to Hayesville, 17 miles and back, twice a week.
Leave Murphey Wednesday and Saturday at 7 a m;
Arrive at Hayesville by 12 m;
Leave Hayesville Wednesday and Saturday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Murphey by 6 p m.
Bond required with bid, $300.

13380 From Laurel Valley to Ducktown (Tenn.) 17 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Laurel Valley Saturday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Ducktown by 12 m;
Leave Ducktown Saturday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Laurel Valley by 8 p m.
Bond required with bid, $200.

13381 From Vest's to Ducktown (Tenn.), 12 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Vest's Wednesday at 6 a m;
Arrive at Ducktown by 12 m;
Leave Ducktown Wednesday at 1 p m;
Arrive at Vest's by 7 p m.
Bond required with bid, $100.

EXTRACTS FROM LAWS, ETC.

OATH OF MAIL CONTRACTORS AND CARRIERS, REQUIRED BY ACT OF CONGRESS, JUNE 8, 1872.

I, ——, do solemnly swear (or affirm) 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 post offices 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.

By section 16 of the act of June 8, 1872, every person employed in the postal service is subject to all the pains, penalties, and forfeitures for violation of the laws relating to such service, whether he has taken the above oath or affirmation or not.

Sections of the Act of Congress "to revise, consolidate, and amend the statutes relating to the Post-Office Department," Approved June 8, 1872.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL requests that bidders, guarantors, sureties, and all persons concerned, or intending to be concerned, in mail contracts, will carefully read and critically examine the abstract of laws here presented, and also the forms and instructions at the end of this advertisement, in order that bids may be made and liabilities assumed understandingly, and that all misapprehensions or cause of complaint hereafter may be avoided.

POSTMASTERS are required to make themselves familiar with these laws and instructions, that they may be able to inform and direct others.

Postmasters, clerks, &c., cannot be contractors.

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

Persons in the employ of the Post Office Department (including postmasters) cannot become interested in a mail contract, nor act as agent of contractors or bidders.

SEC. 12. That no person employed in the Post Office 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 Post Office Department.

By regulation of the Department, no carrier should be employed who is under sixteen years of age; and no bidder will be accepted who is under twenty-one years of age, or who is a married woman.

Conveyance of letters out of the mail. Private expresses, &c.

SEC. 227. That any person concerned in carrying the mail who shall collect, receive, or carry any letter or packet, or cause or procure the same to be done, contrary to law, shall, on conviction thereof, for every such offense, forfeit and pay not exceeding fifty dollars.

SEC. 228. That no person shall establish any private express for the conveyance of letters or packets, or in any manner cause or provide for the conveyance of the same by regular trips or at stated periods, over any post-route which is or may be established by law, or from any city, town, or place to any other city, town, or place between which the mail is regularly carried; and every person so offending, or aiding or assisting therein, shall, for each offense, forfeit and pay one hundred and fifty dollars.

SEC. 229. That the owner of every stage-coach, railway-car, steamboat, or other vehicle or vessel, which shall, with the knowledge of any owner, in whole or in part, or with the knowledge or connivance of the driver, conductor, master, or other person having charge of the same, convey any person acting or employed as a private express for the conveyance of letters or packets, and actually in possession of the same for the purpose of conveying them contrary to the spirit, true intent, and meaning of this law, shall, for every such offense, forfeit and pay one hundred and fifty dollars.

SEC. 230. That no person shall transmit by private expresss or other unlawful means, or deliver to any agent of such unlawful express, or deposit, or cause to be deposited, at any appointed place, for the purpose of being transmitted, any letter or packet, and for every such offense the party so offending shall forfeit and pay fifty dollars.

SEC. 231. That no stage-coach, railway-car, steamboat, or other vehicle or vessel which regularly performs trips at stated periods on any post-route, or from any city, town, or place to any other city, town, or place between which the mail is regularly carried, shall carry, otherwise than in the mail, any letters or packets, except such as relate to some part of the cargo of such steamboat or other vessel, or to some article carried at the same time by the same stage-coach, railway-car, or other vehicle, except as provided in section two hundred and thirty-nine; and for every such offense the owner of the stage-coach, railway-car, steamboat, or other vehicle or vessel shall forfeit and pay one hundred dollars; and the driver, conductor, master, or other person having charge thereof, and not at the time owner of the whole or any part thereof, shall in like manner forfeit and pay for every such offense fifty dollars.

(Section 239 permits conveyance of letters in stamped envelopes otherwise than by mail.)

The manner in which proposals shall be made, and the

LIABILITY OF POSTMASTERS.

SEC. 245. That every proposal for carrying the mail shall be accompanied by the bond of the bidder, with sureties approved by a postmaster, and in cases where the amount of the bond exceeds five thousand dollars, by a postmaster of the first, second, or third class, in a sum to be designated by the Postmaster General in the advertisement of each route; to which bond a condition shall be annexed, that if the said bidder shall, within such time after his bid is accepted as the Postmaster General shall prescribe, enter into a contract with the United States of America, with good and sufficient sureties, to be approved by the Postmaster General, to perform the service proposed in his said bid, and, further, that he shall perform the said service according to his contract, then the said obligation to be void, otherwise to be in full force and obligation in law; and in case of failure of any bidder to enter into such contract to perform the service, or, having executed a contract, in case of failure to perform the service according to his contract, he and his sureties shall be liable for the amount of said bond as liquidated damages, to be recovered in an action of debt on the said bond. No proposal shall be considered unless it shall be accompanied by such bond, and there shall have been affixed to said proposal the oath of the bidder, taken before an officer qualified to administer oaths, that he has the ability, pecuniarily, to fulfill his obligations, and that the bid is made in good faith, and with the intention to enter into contract and perform the service in case his bid is accepted.

SEC. 246. That before the bond of a bidder provided for in the aforesaid section is approved, there shall be indorsed thereon the oaths of the sureties therein, taken before an officer qualified to administer oaths, that they are owners of real estate worth, in the aggregate, a sum double the amount of the said bond, over and above all debts due and owing by them, and all judgments, mortgages, and executions against them, after allowing all exemptions of every character whatever.

SEC. 247. That any postmaster who shall affix his signature to the approval of any bond of a bidder, or to the certificate of sufficiency of sureties in any contract before the said bond or contract is signed by the bidder or contractor and his sureties, or shall knowingly, or without the exercise of due diligence, approve any bond of a bidder with insufficient sureties, or shall knowingly make any false or fraudulent certificate, shall be forthwith dismissed from office, and be thereafter disqualified from holding the office of postmaster, and shall also be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

Service to be awarded to the lowest bidder. Bids of failing contractors may not be considered.

SEC. 249. That all contracts for carrying the mail shall be in the name of the United States, and shall be awarded to the lowest bidder tendering sufficient guarantees for faithful performance, without other reference to the mode of transportation than may be necessary to provide for the due celerity, certainty, and security thereof; but the Postmaster General shall not be bound to consider the bid of any person who has wilfully or negligently failed to perform a former contract.

Combinations to prevent bidding prohibited.

SEC. 250. That no contract for carrying the mail shall be made with any person who has entered, or proposed to enter, into any combination to prevent the making of any bid for carrying the mail, or who has made any agreement, or given or performed, or promised to give or perform, any consideration whatever to induce any other person not to bid for any such contract; and if any person so offending is a contractor for carrying the mail, his contract may be annulled; and for the first offense the person so offending shall be disqualified to contract for carrying the mail for five years, and for the second offense shall be forever disqualified.

Failing bidders and contractors. Contracts may be extended, and temporary contracts made.

SEC. 251. That after any regular bidder whose bid has been accepted shall fail to enter into contract for the transportation of the mails according to his proposal, or, having entered into contract, shall fail to commence the performance of the service stipulated in his or their contract as therein provided, the Postmaster General shall proceed to contract with the next lowest bidder for the same service, who will enter into a contract for the performance thereof, unless the Postmaster General shall consider such bid too high, in which case he shall re-advertise such service. And if any bidder whose bid has been accepted, and who has entered into a contract to perform the service according to his proposal, and in pursuance of his contract has entered upon the performance of the service to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General, shall subsequently fail or refuse to perform the service according to his contract, the Postmaster General shall proceed to contract with the next lowest bidder for such service, under the advertisement thereof, (unless the Postmaster General shall consider such bid too high,) who will enter into contract and give bond, with sureties, to be approved by the Postmaster General, for the faithful performance thereof, in the same penalty and with the same terms and conditions thereto annexed as were stated and contained in the bond which accompanied his bid; but in case each and every of the next lowest bidders for such service whose respective bids are not considered too high by the Postmaster General shall refuse to enter into contract and give bond as herein required for the faithful performance of his contract, the Postmaster General shall immediately advertise for proposals to perform the service on said route. Whenever an accepted bidder shall fail to enter into contract, or a contractor on any mail-route shall fail or refuse to perform the service on said route according to his contract, or when a new route shall be established, or new service required, or when from any other cause there shall not be a contractor legally bound or required to perform such service, the Postmaster General may make a temporary contract for carrying the mail on such route, without advertisement, for such period as may be necessary, not in any case exceeding six months, until the service shall have commenced under a contract made according to law: Provided, however, That the Postmaster General shall not employ temporary service on any route at a higher price than that paid to the contractor who shall have performed the service during the last preceding regular contract term. And in all cases of regular contracts hereafter made, the contract may, in the discretion of the Postmaster General, be continued in force beyond its express terms for a period not exceeding six months, until a new contract with the same, or other contractors, shall be made by the Postmaster General.

Bidders not released until a contract is entered into and service begun.

SEC. 252. That no bidder for carrying the mails shall be released from his obligation under his bid or proposal, notwithstanding an award made to a lower bidder, until a contract for the designated service shall have been duly executed by such lower bidder and his sureties, and accepted, and the service entered upon by the contractor to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General.

Certified Checks or Drafts to accompany all bids when the sum exceeds $5,000.

SEC. 253. That hereafter all bidders upon every mail route for the transportation of the mails upon the same, where the annual compensation for the service on such route at the time exceeds the sum of five thousand dollars, shall accompany their bids with a certified check, or draft, payable to the order of the Postmaster General, upon some solvent national bank, which check or draft shall not be less than five per centum on the amount of the annual pay on said route at the time such bid is made; and in case of new or modified service, not less than five per centum of the amount of the bond of the bidder required to accompany his bid, if the amount of the said bond exceeds five thousand dollars. In case any bidder, on being awarded any such contract, shall fail to execute the same, with good and sufficient sureties, according to the terms on which such bid was made and accepted, and enter upon the performance of the service to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General, such bidder shall, in addition to his liability on his bond accompanying his bid, forfeit the amount so deposited to the United States, and the same shall forthwith be paid into the Treasury for the use of the Post Office Department; but if such contract shall be duly executed and the service entered upon as aforesaid, such draft or check so deposited, and the checks or drafts deposited by all other bidders on the same route, shall be returned to the respective bidders making such deposits. No proposals for the transportation of the mails where the amount of the bond required to accompany the same shall exceed five thousand dollars shall be considered, unless accompanied with the check or draft herein required, together with the bond required by a preceding section: *Provided*, That nothing in this act shall be construed or intended to affect any penalties or forfeitures which have heretofore accrued under the provisions of the sections hereby amended.

Failing contractors guilty of a misdemeanor.

SEC. 254. That any person or persons bidding for the transportation of the mails upon any route which may be advertised to be let, and receiving an award of the contract for such service, who shall wrongfully refuse or fail to enter into contract with the Postmaster General in due form, and perform the service described in his or their bid or proposal, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, and by imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months.

No pay to be made until contracts are executed.

SEC. 259. That no person whose bid for carrying the mail is accepted shall receive any pay until he has executed his contract according to law and the regulations of the Department.

Compensation for additional service restricted and regulated.

SEC. 260. That compensation for additional service in carrying the mail shall not be in excess of the exact proportion which the original compensation bears to the original service; and when any such additional service is ordered, the sum to be allowed therefor shall be expressed in the order, and entered upon the books of the Department; and no compensation shall be paid for any additional regular service rendered before the issuing of such order.

SEC. 261. That no extra allowance shall be made for any increase of expedition in carrying the mail unless thereby the employment of additional stock and carriers is made necessary, and in such case the additional compensation shall bear no greater proportion to the additional stock and carriers necessarily employed than the compensation in the original contract bears to the stock and carriers necessarily employed in its execution.

Deductions may be made, and fines imposed, for delinquencies.

SEC. 266. That the Postmaster General may make deductions from the pay of contractors for failures to perform service according to contract, and impose fines upon them for other delinquencies. He may deduct the price of the trip in all cases where the trip is not performed; and not exceeding three times the price if the failure be occasioned by the fault of the contractor or carrier.

Contracts cannot be assigned nor transferred.

SEC. 271. That no contractor for transporting the mail within or between the United States and any foreign country shall assign or transfer his contract, and all such assignments or transfers shall be null and void.

Schedules to be furnished and posted up in post offices. Registers to be returned and reports made.

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.

By act of Congress approved April 21, 1808, no member of Congress can be a contractor, or be concerned, directly or indirectly, in any contract with the Government; and by the same act it is made a high misdemeanor for any officer of the United States to enter, in its behalf, into a contract with a member of Congress.

[But if a member withdraw from a contract it may be concluded with the other partners.—*Opinion of Attorney General*, 4, 47. A contract with one who is elected a member of Congress during its continuance is not affected by such election.—*Ibid.*, 5, 697.]

The Postmaster General has no power, under the law, to release bidders and contractors and their sureties from their liabilities on the allegation of real or supposed mistakes of any kind in making proposals. He particularly requests that, before bidding, the fullest inquiry and investigation be made in regard to the route, distance, service, weight of mails, cost of stock, feed, and all expenses existing and likely to occur during the contract term, and with due consideration of the consequences imposed by law on delinquents.

Contracts to be executed and filed in the Department by the first day of June.

Under the provisions of section 245 of the act approved June 23, 1874, the Postmaster General has prescribed the 1st day of June, 1875, on or before which day the contracts of accepted bidders must be received at the Department in Washington, executed in due form.

Accepted bidders not complying with this regulation shall be considered as having failed to comply with their proposals, and the Postmaster General may proceed to contract for the service with other parties, according to law.

CONTRACTS RECEIVED AT THE DEPARTMENT AFTER JUNE 1ST WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

FORM OF PROPOSAL, BOND, AND CERTIFICATE.

Proposal.

The undersigned ————, whose post-office address is ——, county of ——, State of ——, proposes to carry the mails of the United States, from July 1, 1875, to June 30, 1876, on route No. ——, between ——— and ———, State of ———, under the advertisement of the Postmaster General dated October 1, 1874, "with celerity, certainty, and security," for the annual sum of ——— dollars; and if this proposal is accepted he will enter into contract, with sureties to be approved by the Postmaster General, within the time prescribed in said advertisement.

This proposal is made with full knowledge of the distance of the route, the weight of the mail to be carried, and all other particulars in reference to the route and service; and also, after careful examination of the laws and instructions attached to advertisement of mail service.

Dated —— ————, *Bidder.*

Oath required by section 245 of an act of Congress approved June 23, 1874, to be affixed to each bid for carrying the mail, and to be taken before an officer qualified to administer oaths.

I ————, of ———, bidder for carrying the mail on route No. ——, from ——— to ———, do swear that I have the ability, pecuniarily, to fulfill my obligation as such bidder; that the bid is made in good faith, and with the intention to enter into contract and perform the service in case said bid shall be accepted.

————.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, ———— for the ——— of ———, this ——— day of ———, A. D. 187 , and in testimony whereof I hereunto subscribe my name and affix my official seal the day and year aforesaid. [SEAL.]

————.
————.

NOTE.—When the oath is taken before a justice of the peace, or any other officer not using a seal, except a judge of a United States court, the certificate of the clerk of a court of record must be added, under his seal of office, that the person who administered the oath is duly qualified as such officer.

Bids of $5,000 and upwards must be accompanied by a certified check, or draft, on some solvent national bank, payable to the order of the Postmaster General, equal to 5 per centum on the present annual pay on the route; or in case of new service, not less than 5 per centum of the amount of the bond accompanying the bid, if said bond exceeds $5,000.

The proposal must be *signed* by the bidder or bidders, and the date of signing affixed.

Direct to the "Second Assistant Postmaster General, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.," marked "Proposals, State of ——."

BOND.

Directions.

☞ Insert the names of the principal and sureties in full in the body of the bond; also the date. The signatures to the bond should be witnessed, and the certificate on the inside should be signed by a justice of the peace, adding his official title, or, if signed by a Notary Public, he should affix his seal.

Know all men by these presents, that ——— ———, of ———, in the State of ———, principal, and ——— ——— and ——— ——— of ———, in the State of ———, as sureties, are held and firmly bound unto the United States of America in the just and full sum of ——— dollars, lawful money of the United States, to be paid to the said United States of America or its duly appointed or authorized officer or officers; to the payment of which, well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

Sealed with our seals, and dated this —— day of ———, 187 .

Whereas, by an act of Congress approved June 23, 1874, entitled "An Act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, and for other purposes," it is provided: "that every proposal for carrying the mail shall be accompanied by the bond of the bidder, with sureties approved by a postmaster," in pursuance whereof, and in compliance with the provisions of said law, this bond is made and executed, subject to all the terms, conditions, and remedies thereon, in the said act provided and prescribed, to accompany the aforegoing and annexed proposal of the said ——— ———.

Now, the condition of the said obligation is such, that if the said ——— ———, bidder as aforesaid, shall, within such time after his bid is accepted as the Postmaster General has prescribed in said advertisement of route No. —, to-wit, on or before the 1st day of June, 1875, enter into a contract with the United States of America, with good and sufficient sureties to be approved by the Postmaster General, to perform the serivice proposed in his said bid, and further shall perform said service according to his contract: then this obligation shall be void, otherwise to be in full force and obligation in law.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this —— day of ———, 187 .

——— ———, [L. S.]
——— ———, [L. S.]
——— ———, [L. S.]

Witness:
——— ———.
——— ———.

STATE OF ——— } *ss.*
COUNTY OF ——— }

On this —— day of ———, 187 , personally appeared before me ——— ——— and ———, sureties in the aforegoing bond, to me known to be the persons named in said bond as sureties, and who have executed the same as such, who being by me duly sworn, depose and say, and each for himself deposes and says, he has executed the within bond, that his place of residence is correctly stated therein, that he is the owner of real estate worth the sum hereinafter set against his name over and above all debts due and owing by him, and all judgments, mortgages, and executions against him, after allowing all exemptions of every character whatever, the total sum thus assured amounting to ($———) ——— dollars.

——— $ —. ——— $ —.
——— $ —. ——— $ —.
——— $ —.

Subscribed and sworn before me this —— day of ———, 187 .

———.
———.

NOTE.—When the above oath is taken before a justice of the peace or any other officer not using a seal, except a Judge of a U. S. Court, the certificate of the clerk of a court of record must be added, under his seal of office, that the person who administered the oath is duly qualified as such officer.

STATE OF ——— } *ss:*
COUNTY OF ——— }

I, ————, clerk of the ——— the same being a Court of Record, do hereby certify that ————, whose genuine signature appears to the foregoing affidavit, was, at the time of signing the name, a justice of the peace in and for the county and State aforesaid, duly qualified, and that all his official acts as such are entitled to full faith and credit.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand as clerk, and affixed the seal of said court, on this ——— day of ———, 187 .

————, *Clerk.*

CERTIFICATE OF POSTMASTER.

I, the undersigned postmaster at ——, State of ————, after the exercise of due diligence to inform myself of the pecuniary ability and responsibility of the principal and his sureties in the aforegoing bond, and of the unincumbered real estate owned by them, respectively, do hereby approve said bond and certify that the said sureties are sufficient—sufficient to insure the payment of double the entire amount of the said bond; and I do further certify that the said bond was duly signed by ——— ——— and ——— ——— and ——— ———, his sureties, before signing this certificate.

——— ———, *Postmaster.*

Dated ———, 187 .

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS AND POSTMASTERS;

Containing also conditions to be incorporated in the contracts to the extent the Department may deem proper.

1. Seven minutes are allowed to each intermediate office, when not otherwise specified, for assorting the mails.

2. On routes where the mode of conveyance admits of it, the special agents of the Post Office Department, also post office blanks, mail bags, locks and keys, are to be conveyed without extra charge.

3. "Way bills" or receipts, prepared by postmasters or other agents of the Department, will accompany the mails, specifying the number and destination of the several bags, to be examined by the postmasters, to insure regularity in the delivery of bags and pouches.

4. No pay will be made for trips not performed; and for each of such omissions, if the failure be occasioned by the fault of the contractor or carrier, three times the pay of the trip will be deducted. For arrivals so far behind time as to break connection with depending mails, and not sufficiently excused, one fourth of the compensation for the trip is subject to forfeiture. For repeated delinquencies of the kind herein specified, enlarged penalties, proportioned to the nature thereof and the importance of the mail, may be made.

5. For leaving behind or throwing off the mails, or any portion of them, for the admission of passengers, or for being concerned in setting up or running an express conveying intelligence in advance of the mail, a quarter's pay may be deducted.

6. Fines will be imposed, unless the delinquency be promptly and satisfactorily explained by certificates of postmasters or the affidavits of other credible persons, for failing to arrive in contract time; for neglecting to take the mail from, or deliver it into, a post office; for suffering it to be wet, injured, destroyed, robbed, or lost; and for refusing, after demand, to convey the mail as frequently as the contractor runs, or is concerned in running, a coach, car, or steamboat on a route.

7. The Postmaster General may annul the contract for repeated failures to run agreeably to contract; for violating the post office laws, or disobeying the instructions of the Department; for refusing to discharge a carrier when required by the Department to do so; for running an express as aforesaid; or for transporting persons or packages conveying mailable matter out of the mail.

8. The Postmaster General may order an increase of service on a route by allowing therefor a *pro rata* increase on the contract pay. He may change schedules of departures and arrivals in all cases, and particularly to make them conform to connections with railroads, without increase of pay, provided the running time be not abridged. The Postmaster General may also discontinue or curtail the service, in whole or in part, in order to place on the route superior service, or whenever the public interests, in his judgment, shall require such discontinuance or curtailment for any other cause; he allowing, as full indemnity to contractor, one month's extra pay on the amount of service dispensed with, and a *pro rata* compensation for the amount of service retained and continued.

9. Payments will be made by collections from, or drafts on, postmasters or otherwise, after the expiration of each quarter—say in November, February, May, and August, provided that required evidence of service has been received.

10. The distances given are believed to be substantially correct; but no increased pay will be allowed should they be greater than advertised, if the points to be supplied are correctly stated. *Bidders must inform themselves on this point*, and also in reference to the weight of the mail, the condition of hills, roads, streams, &c., and all toll-bridges, turnpikes, plank-roads, ferries, or obstructions of any kind by which expense may be incurred. No claim for additional pay, based on such ground, can be considered; nor for alleged mistakes or misapprehension as to the degree of service; nor for bridges destroyed, ferries discontinued, or other obstructions causing or increasing distance or expense occurring during the contract term. Offices established after this advertisement is issued, and also during the contract term, are to be visited without extra pay, if the distance be not increased.

11. Bidders are cautioned to mail their proposals in time to reach the Department by the day and hour named in the advertisement, as bids received after that time *will not be considered* in competition with bids of reasonable amount received in time. Neither can bids be considered which are without the bond, oath, and certificate required by section 245, act of June 23, 1874.

12. Bidders should first propose for service strictly according to the advertisement, and then, if they desire, *separately* for different service; and if the *regular* bid be the lowest offered for the advertised service, the other propositions may be considered.

13. There should be but one route bid for in a proposal. Consolidated or combination bids ("proposing one sum for two or more routes") cannot be considered.

14. The route, the service, the yearly pay, the name and residence of the bidder, (that is, his usual post-office address,) and the name of each member of a firm where a company offers, should be distinctly stated.

15. Bidders are requested to use, as far as practicable, the printed proposals furnished by the Department, to write out in full the sum of their bids, and to retain copies of them.

Altered bids should not be submitted. No withdrawal of a bid will be allowed unless the withdrawal is received twenty-four hours previous to the time fixed for opening the proposals.

16. In case of failure of the accepted bidder to execute a contract, or of the abandonment of service during the contract term, the service will be re-advertised and re-let at the expense of the failing bidder or contractor.

17. The Postmaster General reserves the right to reject any bid which may be deemed extravagant; and also to disregard the bids of failing contractors and bidders. (Act of June 8, 1872, section 249.)

18. The bid should be sealed, superscribed "Mail Proposals, State of North Carolina," addressed "Second Assistant Postmaster General, Contract Office."

19. Every proposal must be accompanied by a bond with sureties approved by a postmaster, and in cases where the amount of the bond exceeds five thousand dollars ($5,000) by a postmaster of the first, second, or third class. Bids for service, the pay for which at the time of advertisement exceeds five thousand dollars, ($5,000,) must be accompanied by a certified check, or draft, payable to the order of the Postmaster General, on some solvent national bank, of not less than five per centum on the amount of the annual pay on such route, and in case of new or modified service, not less than five per centum of the amount of the bond accompanying the bid, if the amount of said bond exceeds ($5,000) five thousand dollars.

The amount of bond required with bids, and the present pay when it exceeds ($5,000) five thousand dollars, are stated in the advertisement under the appropriate route.

20. All checks deposited with bids will be held until contract is executed and *the service commenced* by the accepted bidder. *Checks will not be returned by mail, but the bidder himself, or some one upon his order, must receive them* IN PERSON, *and receipt for them on the books of the Department.*

21. Transfers of contracts, or of interest in contracts, are forbidden by law, and consequently cannot be allowed. Neither can bids, or interest in bids, be transferred or assigned to other parties. Bidders will therefore take notice that they will be expected to perform the service awarded to them through the whole contract term.

22. Section 249 of the act of June 8, 1872, provides that contracts for the transportation of the mail shall be "awarded to the lowest bidder tendering sufficient guarantees for faithful performance, without other reference to the mode of such transportation than may be necessary to provide for the due celerity, certainty, and security thereof." Under this law bids that propose to transport the mails with "*celerity, certainty, and security,*" *having been decided to be the only legal bids, are construed as providing for the entire mail, however large, and whatever may be the mode of conveyance necessary to insure its "celerity, certainty, and security," and have the preference over all others*, and no others are considered, except for steamboat routes.

23. A modification of a bid in any of its essential terms is tantamount to a new bid, and cannot be received so as to interfere with regular competition. Making a new bid in proper form is the only way to modify a previous one.

24. Postmasters are cautioned not to sign the approval of the bond of any bidder before the bond is signed by the bidder and his sureties, and not until entirely satisfied of the sufficiency of the sureties. See sections 246 and 247, act of June 23, 1874, accompanying this advertisement.

25. Postmasters are also liable to dismissal from office for acting as agents of contractors or bidders, with or without compensation, in any business, matter, or thing relating to the mail service. They are the trusted agents of the Department, and cannot consistently act in both capacities.

MARSHALL JEWELL,
Postmaster General.