

SEC. 5265.—The rights and privileges granted under the provisions of the Act of July twenty-four, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, entitled, "An Act to aid in the construction of telegraph lines, and to secure to the Government the use of the same for postal, military and other purposes," or under this Title, shall not be transferred by any company acting thereunder, to any other corporation, association or person.

SEC. 5266.—Telegrams between the several departments of the Government and their officers and agents in their transmissions over the lines of any Telegraph Company to which has been given the right of way, timber or station-lands from the public domain, shall have priority over all other business, at such rates as the Postmaster-General shall annually fix, and no part of any appropriation for the several departments of the Government shall be paid to any company which neglects or refuses to transmit such telegrams in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

SEC. 5267.—The United States may, for postal, military or other purposes, purchase all the telegraph lines, property and effects of any and all companies acting under the provisions of the Act of July twenty-four, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, entitled, "An Act to aid in the construction of telegraph lines, and to secure to the Government the use of the same for postal, military and other purposes," or under this Title, at an appraised value, to be ascertained by five competent disinterested persons, two of whom shall be selected by the Postmaster-General of the United States, two by the company interested, and one by the four so previously selected.

SEC. 5268.—Before any Telegraph Company shall exercise any of the powers or privileges conferred by law, such company shall file their written acceptance with the Postmaster-General, of the restrictions and obligations required by law.

SEC. 5269.—Whenever any Telegraph Company, after