

vate secretary, or from the office or possession of the secretary of state, with intent thereby to impede legislation or to defeat the passage of any such act, memorial or joint resolution, through the legislature or either branch thereof, or to prevent the same from taking effect or becoming a law, such clerk, deputy, assistant or officer of either branch of the legislature, or other person so offending, shall be deemed guilty of a crime, and shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not less than three months, nor more than one year, or shall pay a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars nor less than one hundred, in the discretion of the court.

Penalty for altering any document.

SEC. 4. If any clerk, officer, or other person, shall alter, mutilate or forge any such act, bill, memorial, joint resolution, or other document or paper, pertaining to or being a part of the business of legislation, with wilful or malicious intent to destroy the same, or so as to change the intent or meaning of the same when it passes the legislature, or either branch thereof, such clerk, officer, or other person, shall be deemed guilty of a crime, and shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one year nor less than six months, or by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars nor less than two hundred dollars, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved April 2, 1855.

Chapter 98.

[Published April 6.]

An Act to pay the postage of the several State Offices.

The People of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The secretary of state is hereby authorized to audit the accounts of the postmaster at Madison, for the postage of the executive office, office of secretary of state, attorney general, state superintendent, bank comptroller,

Sec'y of state to audit acc't of postmaster.

state treasurer, and clerk of the supreme court, for the year 1855, said accounts to be certified by the said postmaster by affidavit.

SEC. 2. There is hereby appropriated to, the postmaster at Madison, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sum sufficient for the payment of the above accounts, to be drawn quarterly from the treasury, upon the presentation of said accounts properly certified to by their respective offices. Appropriation.

Approved April 2, 1855.

Chapter 99.

[*Published April 24.*]

An Act to amend an act "entitled an act to amend chapter eighty-four of the revised statutes," relating to proceedings in chancery.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section one of an act entitled "an act to amend chapter eighty-four of the revised statutes, approved April 2, 1853, is amended so as to read as follows: Sec. amended.

"In all suits of chancery brought to compel a specific performance of a contract or foreclose any mortgage made by any person or persons, who have died, or brought by any person having the possession and legal title to land in any case where any other person while living set up any claim thereto, and his, her or their heirs, against whom the suit is brought, or any of them, are unknown to the complainant or complainants, it shall be lawful for him, her or them, to proceed against such unknown heirs as against absent defendants to the bill, by the name or description of 'The unknown heirs of deceased, filling the blank with the name or names of the deceased person or persons whose heirs may be proceeded against, and by such name or description notice shall be given by publication, and any decree made against such unknown heirs shall be as valid and binding as if his, her or their respective names had been inserted in the bill and proceedings.