Table Annexed to Article: Introducing Scientific and Technical Neologisms Deployed post-1789 by the U.S. Congress

Peter J. Aschenbrenner, Purdue University
TABLE ANNEXED TO ARTICLE:
INTRODUCING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL NEOLOGISMS
DEPLOYED POST-1789 BY THE U.S. CONGRESS
2 OCL 884
TABLE 884A
CONGRESS’S FIRST MENTION OF ‘RAILROAD’

Act of July 7, 1838, 5 Stat 271, 283 provides in part as follows:

CHAP. CLXXII.

An Act to establish certain post routes and to discontinue others.

. . .

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That each and every railroad within the limits of the United States which now is, or hereafter may be made and completed, shall be a post route, and the Postmaster General shall cause the mail to be transported thereon, provided he can have it done upon reasonable terms, and not paying therefor in any instance more than twenty-five per centum over and above what similar transportation would cost in post coaches.

. . .

APPROVED, July 7, 1838.
TABLE 884B-1
CONGRESS’S FIRST MENTION OF ‘STEAMBOAT’

Act of July 7, 1838, 5 Stat 288 provides as follows:

CHAP. CLXXVIII.
An Act exempting from duty the coal which may be on board of steamboats or vessels propelled by steam on their arrival at any port in the United States.

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, it shall be lawful for the captain or master of any steamboat or vessel propelled by steam, arriving at any port in the United States, to retain all the coal such boat or vessel may have on board at the time of her arrival, and may proceed with said coal to a foreign port, without being required to land the same in the United States, or to pay any duty thereon; and all acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act, shall be, and the same are hereby repealed.

APPROVED, July 7, 1838.

TABLE B-2
CONGRESS’S SECOND MENTION OF ‘STEAMBOAT’
{OMITTING FOOTNOTES}

Act of July 7, 1838, 5 Stat 304 provides as follows:

CHAP. CXCI.
An Act to provide for the better security of the lives of passengers on board of vessels propelled in whole or in part by steam.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be the duty of all owners of steamboats, or vessels propelled in whole or in part by steam, on or before the first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, to make a new enrolment of the same, under the existing laws of the United States, and take out from the collector or surveyor of the port, as the case may be, where such vessel is enrolled, a new license, under such conditions as are now imposed by law, and as shall be imposed by this act.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for the owner, master, or captain of any steamboat or vessel propelled in whole or in part by steam, to transport any goods, wares, and merchandise, or passengers, in or upon the bays, lakes, rivers, or other navigable waters of the United States, from and
after the said first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight; without having first obtained, from the proper officer, a license under the existing laws, and without having complied with the conditions imposed by this act; and for each and every violation of this section, the owner or owners of said vessel shall forfeit and pay to the United States the sum of five hundred dollars, one-half for the use of the informer; and for which sum or sums the steamboat or vessel so engaged shall be liable, and may be seized and proceeded against summarily, by way of libel, in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction of the offence.

**TABLE 884C**

**CONGRESS’S FIRST MENTION OF ‘TELEGRAPH’**

Act of April 14, 1843, 5 Stat 618 provides as follows:

**CHAP. LXXXIV.—An Act to test the practicability of establishing a system of electro-magnetic telegraphs by the United States.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the sum of thirty thousand dollars be, and is hereby, appropriated, out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for testing the capacity and usefulness of the system of electro-magnetic telegraphs invented by Samuel F. B. Morse, of New York, for the use of the Government of the United States, by constructing a line of said electro-magnetic telegraphs, under the superintendence of Professor Samuel F. B. Morse, of such length, and between such points, as shall fully test its practicability and utility, and that the same shall be expended, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, upon the application of said Morse.

**SEC. 2. And be it further enacted,** That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized to pay, out of the aforesaid thirty thousand dollars, to the said Samuel F. B. Morse, and the persons employed under him, such sums of money as he may deem to be a fair compensation for the services of the said Samuel F. B. Morse, and the persons employed under him, in constructing and in superintending the construction of the said line of telegraphs authorized by this act.

**APPROVED, March 3, 1843.**