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structure may, in whole or in part, exist, and proper proceedings to this end may be instituted under the direction of the Attorney-General of the United States at the request of the Secretary of War; and in case of any litigation arising from any obstruction or alleged obstruction to navigation created by the construction of any bridge under this Act, the cause or question arising may be tried before the circuit court of the United States in any district which any portion of said obstruction or bridge touches.

Litigation.

SEC. 6. That the authority hereby granted shall cease and be null and void unless the actual construction of the bridge authorized in this Act be commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date of the passage of this Act.

Time of construction.

SEC. 7. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved as to any and all bridges which may be built in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and the United States shall incur no liability for the alteration, amendment, or repeal thereof to the owner or owners or any persons interested in any bridge which shall have been constructed in accordance with its provisions.

Amendment.

SEC. 8. That the word "persons" as used in this Act shall be construed to import both the singular and the plural, as the case demands, and shall include municipalities, quasi municipal corporations, corporations, companies, and associations.

Meaning of "persons."

Approved, February 24, 1906.

CHAP. 507.—An Act To allow the entry and clearance of vessels at San Luis Obispo, Port Harford, and Monterey, California.

February 24, 1906.
[S. 3318.]
[Public, No. 25.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the collector of customs at San Francisco is hereby authorized to depute an officer of the customs from his collection district to proceed to San Luis Obispo, Port Harford, or Monterey in his district for the purpose of receiving at those places the entries of vessels arriving there in ballast and of clearing them with cargoes of petroleum and its products only in the same manner as if they had proceeded to San Francisco before entry.

Customs.
San Francisco, Cal., district.
Petroleum vessels may enter and clear at San Luis Obispo, Port Harford, and Monterey.
R.S., sec. 2582, p. 511, amended.

Approved, February 24, 1906.

CHAP. 508.—An Act To provide for the purchase of certain coal claims in the island of Batan in the Philippine Islands.

February 26, 1906.
[H. R. 12864.]
[Public, No. 26.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized to purchase the coal claims owned by Messrs. Munoz and Villanueva, lying on the island of Batan, Philippine Islands, and upon which the War Department now holds an option; and to provide for the purchase of said claims the sum of fifty thousand dollars is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated; and the above sum is made immediately available in order that purchase may be made before the said option expires, to wit, before March first, nineteen hundred and six.

Philippine Islands.
Purchase of coal claims on Batan Island.

Appropriation.

Approved, February 26, 1906.