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when such vacancies are in grades not above that of colonel; and officers appointed under the provisions of this Act to higher grades in the forces other than the Regular Army herein provided for shall not vacate their permanent commissions or be prejudiced in their relative or lineal standing in the Regular Army.

Permanent status retained.

Approved, April 20, 1918.

April 22, 1918.
[S. 3388.]
[Public, No. 138.]

CHAP. 62.—An Act To amend the emergency shipping fund provisions of the urgent deficiency appropriation Act approved June fifteenth, nineteen hundred and seventeen, so as to empower the President and his designated agents to take over certain transportation systems for the transportation of shipyard and plant employees, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section one of the emergency shipping fund provisions of the urgent deficiency appropriation Act of June fifteenth, nineteen hundred and seventeen, is hereby amended by adding a new provision reading as follows:

Emergency Shipping Fund.
Ante, p. 182, amended.
Additional powers conferred.

"(f) To take possession of, lease or assume control of, any street railroad, interurban railroad, or part thereof wherever operated, and all cars, appurtenances, and franchises or parts thereof commonly used in connection with the operation thereof necessary for the transfer and transportation of employees of shipyards or plants engaged or that may hereafter be engaged in the construction of ships or equipment therefor for the United States."

Possession of street railroads, etc., to convey employees to shipyards, etc.
Post, p. 651.

SEC. 2. That paragraph (b) of section one of said Act is hereby amended by adding, after the word "material," in the third line of said paragraph, the following words, "or take possession, lease or assume control of, any street railroad, interurban railroad, or part thereof, cars and other equipment necessary to operation."

To modify street railroad, etc., contracts.

SEC. 3. That upon taking possession of such property, or leasing or assuming control thereof, just compensation shall be made therefor, to be determined by the President, and if the amount thereof so determined by the President is unsatisfactory to the person entitled to receive the same, such person shall be paid seventy-five per centum of the amount so determined by the President and shall be entitled to sue the United States of America to recover such further sums as added to seventy-five per centum will make up such amount as will be just compensation therefor, in the manner provided for by section twenty-four, paragraph twenty, and section one hundred and forty-five of the Judicial Code.

Compensation to be determined by the President.
Suit, etc., if amount unsatisfactory.
Procedure.
Procedure.
Vol. 36, pp. 1093, 1136.

The President may exercise the power and authority hereby vested in him through the several departments of the Government, and through such agency or agencies as he shall determine from time to time.

Execution of powers, etc.

Approved, April 22, 1918.

April 23, 1918.
[S. 4292.]
[Public, No. 139.]

CHAP. 63.—An Act To conserve the gold supply of the United States; to permit the settlement in silver of trade balances adverse to the United States; to provide silver for subsidiary coinage and for commercial use; to assist foreign governments at war with the enemies of the United States; and for the above purposes to stabilize the price and encourage the production of silver.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized from time to time to melt or break up and to sell as bullion not in excess of three hundred and fifty million standard silver dollars now or hereafter held in the Treasury of the United States. Any silver certificates which may be outstanding against such standard silver dollars so melted or broken up shall be

Silver, etc.
Amount of standard dollars in Treasury to be sold as bullion.
Certificates issued therefor to be retired.