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[S. 5045.]
[Public, No. 951.]

CHAP. 525.—An Act Authorizing Jed P. Ladd, his heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge across Lake Champlain from East Alburg, Vermont, to West Swanton, Vermont.

Lake Champlain.
Jed P. Ladd may bridge, at East Alburg to West Swanton, Vt.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to facilitate interstate commerce, improve the postal service, and provide for military and other purposes, Jed P. Ladd, of Burlington, Vermont, his heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, be, and he is hereby, authorized to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across Lake Champlain, at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, between a point at or near East Alburg, Vermont, and a point at or near West Swanton, Vermont, in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters," approved March 23, 1906, and subject to the conditions and limitations contained in this Act.

Construction.
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Right to acquire real estate, etc., for location, approaches, etc.

SEC. 2. There is hereby conferred upon Jed P. Ladd, his heirs, legal representatives, and assigns all such rights and powers to enter upon lands and to acquire, condemn, occupy, possess, and use real estate and other property needed for the location, construction, operation, and maintenance of such bridge and its approaches as are possessed by railroad corporations for railroad purposes or by bridge corporations for bridge purposes in the State in which such real estate or other property is situated, upon making just compensation therefor, to be ascertained and paid according to the laws of such State, and the proceedings therefor shall be the same as in the condemnation or expropriation of property for public purposes in such State.

Condemnation proceedings.

Tolls authorzied.

SEC. 3. The said Jed P. Ladd, his heirs, legal representatives, and assigns are hereby authorized to fix and charge tolls for transit over such bridge, and the rates of toll so fixed shall be the legal rates until changed by the Secretary of War under the authority contained in the Act of March 23, 1906.

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Acquisition authorized, after completion, by Vermont, etc.

SEC. 4. After the completion of such bridge, as determined by the Secretary of War, either the State of Vermont, any public agency or political subdivision of such State within or adjoining which any part of such bridge is located, or any two or more of them jointly, may at any time acquire and take over all right, title, and interest in such bridge and its approaches and any interest in real property necessary therefor, by purchase or by condemnation or expropriation, in accordance with the laws of such State governing the acquisition of private property for public purposes by condemnation or expropriation. If at any time after the expiration of five years after the completion of such bridge the same is acquired by condemnation or expropriation, the amount of damages or compensation to be allowed shall not include good will, going value, or prospective revenues or profits but shall be limited to the sum of (1) the actual cost of constructing such bridge and its approaches, less a reasonable deduction for actual depreciation in value; (2) the actual cost of acquiring such interests in real property; (3) actual financing and promotion costs, not to exceed 10 per centum of the sum of the cost of constructing the bridge and its approaches and acquiring such interests in real property; and (4) actual expenditures for necessary improvements.

Compensation if acquired by condemnation.

Limitations.

Tolls under State, etc., operation.

SEC. 5. If such bridge shall at any time be taken over or acquired by the State or public agencies or political subdivision thereof, or by either of them, as provided in section 4 of this Act, and if tolls are thereafter charged for the use thereof, the rates of toll shall be so adjudged as to provide a fund sufficient to pay for the reasonable

Rates applied to operation, sinking fund, etc.

cost of maintaining, repairing, and operating the bridge and its approaches under economical management, and to provide a sinking fund sufficient to amortize the amount paid therefor, including reasonable interest and financing cost, as soon as possible under reasonable charges, but within a period of not to exceed twenty years from the date of acquiring the same. After a sinking fund sufficient for such amortization shall have been so provided, such bridge shall thereafter be maintained and operated free of tolls or the rates of toll shall thereafter be so adjusted as to provide a fund of not to exceed the amount necessary for the proper maintenance, repair, and operation of the bridge and its approaches under economical management. An accurate record of the amount paid for acquiring the bridge and its approaches, the actual expenditures for maintaining, repairing, and operating the same and of the daily tolls collected, shall be kept and shall be available for the information of all persons interested.

Maintenance as free bridge, etc., after amortizing costs, etc.

Record of expenditures and receipts.

SEC. 6. Jed P. Ladd, his heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, shall within ninety days after the completion of such bridge file with the Secretary of War and with the highway department of the State of Vermont a sworn itemized statement showing the actual original cost of constructing the bridge and its approaches, the actual cost of acquiring any interest in real property necessary therefor, and the actual financing and promotion costs. The Secretary of War may, and upon request of the highway department of such State shall, at any time within three years after the completion of such bridge, investigate such costs and determine the accuracy and the reasonableness of the costs alleged in the statement of cost so filed, and shall make a finding of the actual and reasonable costs of constructing, financing, and promoting such bridge. For the purpose of such investigation the said Jed P. Ladd, his heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, shall make available all of his records in connection with the construction, financing, and promotion thereof. The findings of the Secretary of War as to the reasonable costs of construction, financing, and promotion of the bridge shall be conclusive for the purposes mentioned in section 4 of this Act, subject only to review in a court of equity for fraud or gross mistake.

Sworn statement of construction costs, etc., to be filed after completion.

Examination by Secretary of War.

Findings of Secretary conclusive.

SEC. 7. The right to sell, assign, transfer, and mortgage all the rights, powers, and privileges conferred by this Act is hereby granted to Jed P. Ladd, his heirs, legal representatives, and assigns; and any corporation to which or any person to whom such rights, powers, and privileges may be sold, assigned, or transferred, or who shall acquire the same by mortgage foreclosure or otherwise, is hereby authorized and empowered to exercise the same as fully as though conferred herein directly upon such corporation or persons.

Right to sell, etc., conferred.

SEC. 8. All contracts made in connection with the construction of the bridge authorized by this Act and which shall involve the expenditure of more than $5,000 shall be let by competitive bidding. Such contracts shall be advertised for a reasonable time in some newspaper of general circulation published in the States in which the bridge is located and in the vicinity thereof; sealed bids shall be required and the contracts shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Verified copies or abstracts of all bids received and of the bid or bids accepted shall be promptly furnished to the highway departments of the States in which such bridge is located. A failure to comply in good faith with the provisions of this section shall render null and void any contract made in violation thereof, and the Secretary of War may, after hearings, order the suspension of all work upon such bridge until the provisions of this section shall have been fully complied with.

Construction contracts to be let to lowest bidder.

Advertising, etc.

Contracts void for violations.

Amendment.

SEC. 9. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, March 2, 1929.

March 2, 1929.
[S. 5332.]
[Public, No. 952.]

CHAP. 526.—An Act To enable the mothers and widows of the deceased soldiers, sailors, and marines of the American forces now interred in the cemeteries of Europe to make a pilgrimage to these cemeteries.

American cemeteries in Europe.
Pilgrimages for mothers and widows of American forces who died during World War and buried therein, to be arranged for.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to arrange for pilgrimages to cemeteries in Europe by mothers and widows of members of the military or naval forces of the United States who died in the military or naval service at any time between April 5, 1917, and July 1, 1921, and whose remains are now interred in such cemeteries. Such pilgrimages shall be made at the expense of the United States under the conditions set forth in section 2.

Expense by United States.

Conditions.

SEC. 2. The conditions under which such pilgrimages may be made are as follows:

Invitations to be extended.

(a) Invitations to make the pilgrimages shall be extended in the name of the United States to the mothers and widows for whom the pilgrimages are authorized to be arranged under section 1.

Upon acceptance, one pilgrimage allowed.
Restrictions.

(b) Upon acceptance of the invitation the mother or widow shall be entitled to make one such pilgrimage; but no mother or widow who has previous to the pilgrimage visited cemeteries described in section 1 shall be entitled to make any such pilgrimage, and no mother or widow shall be entitled to make more than one such pilgrimage.

Designation of the times therefor.

(c) The pilgrimages shall be made at such times during the period from May 1, 1930, to October 31, 1933, as may be designated by the Secretary of War.

Issue of special passports, with limitation, if parties are citizens.

(d) For the purpose of the pilgrimages the Secretary of State shall (1) issue special passports, limited to the duration of the pilgrimage, to mothers and widows making the pilgrimages and to such personnel as may be selected to accompany and/or arrange for the pilgrimages, if such mothers, widows, and personnel are citizens of the United States, and (2) issue suitable travel documents, if aliens. No fee for either of such documents or for any application therefor shall be charged. Such alien mothers, widows, and personnel shall be permitted to return and be granted admission to the United States without regard to any law, convention, or treaty relating to the immigration or exclusion of aliens, if the return is made within the period covered by the pilgrimage of the particular group or, in the case of personnel, within such times as the Secretary of War shall by regulation prescribe; except that in any case of unavoidable detention the Secretary of War may extend in such case the time during which return may be made without regard to such laws, conventions, or treaties.

Travel documents, if aliens.
Without fee.
Alien mothers, etc., permitted to return to United States within period of pilgrimage.

Extension of time.

Shortest practical route and time to be designated.
Period for Government expense limited.

(e) The pilgrimages shall be by the shortest practicable route and for the shortest practicable time, to be designated by the Secretary of War. No mother or widow shall be provided for at Government expense in Europe for a longer period than two weeks from the time of disembarkation in Europe to the time of reembarkation in Europe. In the case of any mother or widow willfully failing to continue the pilgrimage of her particular group, the United States shall not incur or be subject to any expense with regard to her pilgrimage after such failure.