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[CHAPTER 783.]

AN ACT

August 27, 1935.
[S. 1448.]
[Private, No. 336.]

For the relief of certain claimants who suffered loss by fire in the State of Minnesota during October 1918.

Minnesota.
Payment of certain losses by fire in, authorized.

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 authorized and directed to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, in accordance with certifications of the Comptroller General of the United States under this Act, to each claimant or its or his heirs, representatives, administrators, executors, successors, or assigns, the amount of whose loss, on account of fire originating from the operation of railroads by the United States in the State of Minnesota on or about October 12, 1918, has been determined by court proceedings or by the Director General of Railroads, the difference between the amount of such loss so determined and the amount actually paid by the United States to such claimant less any amount paid to such claimant by any fire-insurance company on account of such fire: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the terms and conditions of any policy of insurance, or the provisions of any law, no fire-insurance company, except farmers' mutual fire-insurance companies, shall have any rights in and to funds herein appropriated, the payments herein provided for, nor to any right of subrogation whatsoever. That said farmers' mutual fire-insurance companies shall be paid in the same manner and to the same extent as other claimants: *Provided further*, That no person who makes claim under this Act by virtue of having acquired and succeeded to the rights of the original claimant through purchase and assignment, from said claimant of said claim, shall receive more than the amount actually paid for such claim and assignment.

Provisos.
Restriction on payments.

Farmers' mutual fire-insurance companies.

Assignees, limitation.

Application for payment.

SEC. 2. No payment under the provisions of this Act shall be made unless an application therefor is filed with the Comptroller General of the United States by or on behalf of the person entitled to payment within two years after the date of the enactment of this Act. The Comptroller General of the United States shall determine the amount due on any application, and the person entitled thereto under this Act, and shall certify such determination to the Secretary of the Treasury, which determination shall be final. The Comptroller General shall promulgate rules and regulations as to the identity of claimants, the validity of assignments, and all other matters in connection with the determination of the amounts due and the persons to whom such amounts shall be paid under this Act. The amount to be paid under this Act shall be ascertained from the records of the Director General of Railroads, and such records shall be conclusive evidence of the amount of any such loss, the amount paid by the United States with respect thereto, and the amount paid by any insurance company with respect thereto. Such records shall also be conclusive evidence of the person entitled to payment, except that if in any judicial proceeding in which final judgment has been rendered the right of any person to succeed to the rights of the person who suffered the loss by the fire has been determined, such judgment shall be conclusive as to the heir, representative, administrator, executor, successor, or assignee, as the case may be, entitled to payment.

Determination of amount due.

Rules to be prescribed.

Records to be conclusive evidence.

Definitions.

SEC. 3. The words "person" and "claimant", as used in the Act, shall include an individual, two or more persons having a joint or common interest, company, partnership, and municipal and private corporations.

Unlawful fees.

SEC. 4. Any person or group of persons individually or collectively who charge or collect, or attempt to charge or collect, either directly

or indirectly, any fee or other compensation for assisting in any manner any person in obtaining the benefits of this Act in excess of 10 per centum of the amount of the claim actually paid under this Act shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a fine of not more than $500 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

Approved, August 27, 1935.

[CHAPTER 784.]

AN ACT

For the relief of William J. Ryan, chaplain, United States Army.

August 27, 1935.
[H. R. 1912.]
[Private, No. 337.]

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 authorized and directed to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to William J. Ryan, United States Army chaplain, Fort Winfield Scott, California, the sum of $225.75, in full satisfaction of his claim against the United States for damage to his automobile as the result of an operation of the United States Army on Lincoln Boulevard, Presidio of San Francisco, California, on April 18, 1929: *Provided*, That no part of the amount appropriated in this Act in excess of 10 per centum thereof shall be paid or delivered to or received by any agent or agents, attorney or attorneys, on account of services rendered in connection with said claim. It shall be unlawful for any agent or agents, attorney or attorneys, to exact, collect, withhold, or receive any sum of the amount appropriated in this Act in excess of 10 per centum thereof on account of services rendered in connection with said claim, any contract to the contrary notwithstanding. Any person violating the provisions of this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not exceeding $1,000.

Chaplain William J. Ryan.
Payment to.

Proviso.
Limitation on attorney's, etc., fees.

Penalty for violation.

Approved, August 27, 1935.

[CHAPTER 785.]

AN ACT

For the relief of L. E. Geary.

August 27, 1935.
[H. R. 4831.]
[Private, No. 338.]

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 be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to pay, out of the appropriation "New Vessel for Indian Service, Alaska, Emergency Construction", contained in the First Deficiency Act, fiscal year 1931 (46 Stat. 1070), the sum of $420 to L. E. Geary, of Seattle, Washington, in full settlement of his claim against the Government for services rendered in preparing preliminary plans and estimates for a new ship for use in Alaska by the Indian Service: *Provided*, That no part of the amount appropriated in this Act in excess of 10 per centum thereof shall be paid or delivered to or received by any agent or agents, attorney or attorneys, on account of services rendered in connection with said claim. It shall be unlawful for any agent or agents, attorney or attorneys, to exact, collect, withhold, or receive any sum of the amount appropriated in this Act in excess of 10 per centum thereof on account of services rendered in connection with said claim, any contract to the contrary notwithstanding. Any person violating the provisions of this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not exceeding $1,000.

L. E. Geary.
Payment to.
Vol. 46, p. 1070.

Proviso.
Limitation on attorney's, etc., fees.

Penalty for violation.

Approved, August 27, 1935.