

February 27, 1909.

[H. R. 18694.]

[Public, No. 284.]

CHAP. 224.—An Act Relating to the use, control, and ownership of lands in the Canal Zone, Isthmus of Panama.

Canal Zone.
Leases of public
lands on.

Conditions.

Preference to occu-
pants.

Lands excepted.

Resumption of pub-
lic use.

Mineral, etc., rights
reserved.

Survey.

Delegation of au-
thority.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is hereby authorized to grant leases of the public lands in the Canal Zone, Isthmus of Panama, for such period, not exceeding twenty-five years, and upon such terms and conditions as he may deem advisable. No lease, however, shall be granted for a tract of land in excess of fifty hectares, nor to any person who shall not have first established, by affidavit and by such other proof as may be required, that such person is the head of a family or over the age of twenty-one years, and that the application for a lease is made in good faith for the purposes of actual settlement and cultivation, and not for the benefit of any other person whatsoever, and that such person will faithfully comply with all the requirements of law as to settlement, residence, and cultivation. In granting such leases preference shall be accorded to actual occupants of lands in good faith.

SEC. 2. That no portion of the lands of the United States within the Canal Zone shall be leased hereunder unless it shall first be made to appear, by a statement or plat filed by the Isthmian Canal Commission with the collector of revenues for the Canal Zone, that it is not contemplated to use such lands in the work of canal construction or to set the same aside as a town site; and all leases shall be made subject to the provision that if at any time it shall become necessary, notwithstanding, for the United States to occupy or use any portion of the leased lands, it shall have the right to so do without further compensation to the lessee than for the reasonable value of the necessary improvements made upon said tracts by the lessee, the same to be determined by the courts of the Canal Zone.

SEC. 3. That all leases of lands hereunder shall reserve to the United States all mineral, oil, and gas rights in the lands leased.

SEC. 4. That the President may, in his discretion, require a land survey to be made of the Canal Zone.

SEC. 5. That the powers conferred upon the President under this Act may be exercised by him through the Isthmian Canal Commission or in such other manner as he may designate.

Approved, February 27, 1909.

February 27, 1909.

[S. 7378.]

[Public, No. 285.]

CHAP. 225.—An Act To extend the time for the completion of a bridge across the Missouri River at or near Yankton, South Dakota, by the Winnipeg, Yankton and Gulf Railroad Company.

Missouri River.
Time extended for
bridging, at Yankton,
S. Dak., by Winnipeg,
Yankton, and Gulf
Railroad Company.
Vol. 33, p. 157.
Ante, p. 167, amend-
ed.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section six of the Act approved April fifth, nineteen hundred and four, authorizing the Winnipeg, Yankton and Gulf Railroad Company to construct a combined railroad, wagon, and foot-passenger bridge, across the Missouri River at or near the city of Yankton, South Dakota, as amended by the Act approved May twentieth, nineteen hundred and eight, be, and the same is hereby, so amended that the time within which the said bridge is required to be commenced shall be within one year and the time within which it is required that the said bridge shall be completed shall be within three years from the date of the approval of this Act.

Approved, February 27, 1909.