

as full indemnity for the losses sustained by the owners of the Norwegian steamship Hassel, or any other parties pecuniarily interested, as the result of a collision on August 24, 1918, between that steamship and the American steamship Ausable, operated by the War Department, the sum of \$164,169.23, as recommended by the President in his message to Congress of February 25, 1924, printed as Senate Document Numbered 52, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session.

Post, p. 1339.

Approved, February 21, 1925.

February 21, 1925.  
[S. 2397.]

[Public, No. 433.]

**CHAP. 277.**—An Act To provide for refunds to veterans of the World War of certain amounts paid by them under Federal irrigation projects.

Reclamation projects.

Terms construed.  
"Veteran."

Persons excluded.

"Reclamation law."  
Vol. 32, p. 388.

Veteran no longer retaining, etc., a farm unit may apply for refund of charges paid.

If already compensated not entitled to refund.

Investigation and refund by the Secretary.

Payment from project allotment.

Benefits payable to estate.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That as used in this Act—

(a) The term "veteran" includes any individual a member of the military or naval forces of the United States at any time after April 5, 1917, and before November 12, 1918; but does not include (1) any individual at any time during such period or thereafter separated from such forces under other than honorable conditions, (2) any conscientious objector who performed no military duty whatever or refused to wear the uniform, or (3) any alien at any time during such period or thereafter discharged from the military or naval forces on account of his alienage; and

(b) The term "reclamation law" means the Act entitled "An Act appropriating the receipts from the sale and disposal of public lands in certain States and Territories to the construction of irrigation works for the reclamation of arid lands," approved June 17, 1902, and all Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto.

**SEC. 2.** (a) Any veteran—who at any time since April 6, 1917, has made entry upon a farm unit within a Federal irrigation project under the reclamation law and (1) who no longer retains such entry because of cancellation by, or relinquishment to, the United States after or (2) who, prior to receipt by him of a final certificate in respect of such entry, but in no case more than one year after the date of passage of this Act, desires to relinquish such entry—may, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, file application for the refund provided in subdivision (b). A veteran who has been compensated, in cash or otherwise, for any such relinquishment shall not be entitled to the benefits of this Act, and before payment of such refund the Secretary of the Interior, under such regulations as he may prescribe, shall require proof that the veteran has not been so compensated.

(b) Upon receipt of such application the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to investigate the facts and, in his discretion, to pay as a refund to any such veteran entitled thereto, a sum equal to all amounts paid to the United States by such veteran, or for his account, as construction charges and as interest and penalties on such charges in respect of such unit. Every such refund so approved by the Secretary of the Interior shall be paid from the appropriation for the project on which the entry in question was made.

**SEC. 3.** (a) The estate of a veteran shall be entitled to the benefits of this Act in any case where the veteran, if living, could have availed himself of such benefits. Application for such benefits shall be made by, and payments thereof shall be made to, the executor or administrator of such estate.

(b) A veteran (or his estate) accepting in respect of any farm unit the benefits of this Act, shall be deemed thereby to have relinquished, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, all right, title, or interest of such veteran (or estate) in such farm unit and any improvements thereon.

All rights in unit relinquished on accepting benefits.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to cancel any application for permanent water right for any farm unit in respect of which a veteran (or his estate) has received the benefits of this Act, and to terminate all rights and liabilities of such veteran (or estate) in respect of such application.

Cancellation of permanent water right.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to make such regulations as he deems necessary to execute the functions imposed upon him by this Act.

Regulations to be made.

Approved, February 21, 1925.

**CHAP. 278.**—An Act To provide for the appointment of an appraiser of merchandise at Portland, Oregon.

February 21, 1925.  
[S. 3352.]  
[Public, No. 434.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That on and after the passage of this Act the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to appoint, pursuant to the civil service laws and regulations, an appraiser of merchandise at Portland, Oregon, prescribe his duties when not otherwise defined by law, and fix his compensation.

Customs Appraiser at Portland, Oreg., authorized.

SEC. 2. So much of paragraph 3 of section 2587 of the Revised Statutes as provides for the appointment of an appraiser of merchandise at Portland, Oregon, is hereby repealed.

Former provision repealed.  
R. S., sec. 2587, p. 512, amended.

Approved, February 21, 1925.

**CHAP. 279.**—An Act Granting to the county authorities of San Juan County, State of Washington, a right of way for county roads over certain described tracts of land on the abandoned military reservations on Lopez and Shaw Islands, and for other purposes.

February 21, 1925.  
[S. 3648.]  
[Public, No. 435.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That a right of way for the construction of highways over the following-described tracts of land on the abandoned military reservations on Lopez and Shaw Islands, county of San Juan, State of Washington, is hereby granted:

Lopez and Shaw Islands, abandoned military reservations, Wash.  
San Juan County granted right of way for highways on.

Beginning at a point on the military reservation on north end of Lopez Island five hundred and sixty-six and fifty-two one-hundredths feet north of corner to sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, township 35 north of range 2, west Willamette meridian, being the south boundary of reserve; thence north three thousand three hundred and fifty-five and eighty-five one-hundredths feet; thence north twenty-eight degrees twenty-five minutes east three hundred and forty-six and three-tenths feet; thence north thirty-nine degrees fifty-one minutes east four hundred and ninety-nine and three-tenths feet; thence north twenty degrees five minutes west four hundred and thirty-four feet; thence north naught degrees nineteen minutes east two hundred and forty-four and four-tenths feet; thence north twenty-six degrees forty-one minutes east eight hundred and sixty-two feet; thence north twenty-nine degrees fifteen minutes east two hundred and thirteen and five-tenths feet; thence north fourteen degrees twenty-three minutes east two hundred and forty-one feet; thence north twenty-nine degrees thirty-four minutes east four hundred and

Description.