

of computing deductions and calculating annuities all basic salaries in excess of \$9,000 per annum shall be treated as \$9,000.

(o) Any diplomatic secretary or consular officer who has been or any Foreign Service officer who may hereafter be promoted from the classified service to the grade of ambassador or minister or appointed to a position in the Department of State shall be entitled to all the benefits of the Foreign Service retirement and disability system provided by section 18 of this Act in the same manner and under the same conditions as Foreign Service officers; and there shall likewise be entitled to the benefits of said system in the same manner and under the same conditions as Foreign Service officers any ambassador or minister or any Assistant Secretary of State now in the service, who at the time of original appointment to the grade of ambassador or minister or to the position of Assistant Secretary of State was a diplomatic secretary or consular officer or who at any time prior to such appointment had served for a period of ten years as diplomatic secretary or consular officer or in the Department of State or on special duty under the Department of State or in any or all of these capacities.

Other officers entitled to retirement benefits.
Vol. 43, p. 145, amended.

Additional officers and prior service included.

SEC. 2. The Chief of the Division of Western European Affairs shall be entitled to participate in and have the benefits of said Foreign Service retirement and disability fund.

Designated officer to have benefits of fund.

Approved, July 3, 1926.

CHAP. 799.—An Act To amend the Act entitled "An Act authorizing the Postmaster General to adjust certain claims of postmasters for loss by burglary, fire, or other unavoidable casualty," approved March 17, 1882, as amended.

July 3, 1926.
[H. R. 12369.]
[Public, No. 520.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act entitled "An Act authorizing the Postmaster General to adjust certain claims of postmasters for loss by burglary, fire, or other unavoidable casualty," approved March 17, 1882, as amended, is amended so as to include losses of customs charges collected on dutiable mail articles, but such Act shall apply only to such losses occurring after April 1, 1924.

Postal service.
Allowance to postmasters for losses of custom charges collected on mailed matter.
Vol. 38, p. 279, amended.
Restriction.

Approved, July 3, 1926.

CHAP. 800.—An Act To authorize the sale and disposition of the abandoned tract or tracts of lands formerly used as a life-saving station in Florida, and for other purposes.

July 3, 1926.
[H. R. 8903.]
[Public, No. 521.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That lots 4 and 5, section 5, township 41 south, range 43 east, Florida, containing eighty and twenty-five one-hundredths acres, formerly used as a life-saving station but having been abandoned for that purpose, are hereby placed under the control of the Secretary of the Interior for disposition as hereinafter provided.

Florida.
Abandoned life station in, placed under Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Interior may cause the said lands to be subdivided into town lots, blocks, streets, and alleys of such dimensions as he may deem advisable, reserving not less than five acres on the ocean front for park, aviation field, school, and other public purposes. Except as to the reservations mentioned he shall cause the said town lots so surveyed and subdivided, and each tract thereof, to be appraised by three competent and disinterested men to be appointed by him. When the appraisal has been approved by him he shall cause the said lots to be sold at

Subdivision of, into lots, etc.

Survey and appraisal of lots.

Sale at auction to highest bidder.

Reoffering of unsold lots.

Sale at private sale of remaining.

Patent to municipality, of reservations for parks and other purposes at designated price.

public auction to the highest bidder on such terms as he may prescribe, at not less than the appraised value thereof, first having given not less than sixty days' public notice of the time, place, and terms of sale immediately prior to such sale by publication in at least one newspaper having a general circulation in the section of the country in which the lands are situated and in such other newspapers as he may deem advisable; that any lots remaining unsold may be reoffered for sale at any subsequent time in the same manner at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior; and if not sold at such second offering for want of bidders then the Secretary of the Interior shall sell the same at private sale for cash at not less than the appraised value.

SEC. 3. That when a town organized as a municipality embraces the lands in question, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to issue patent to the said municipality, upon the payment of \$1.25 per acre, for all reservations, for parks, aviation field, schools, and other public purposes, to be maintained for such purposes only.

Approved, July 3, 1926.

July 3, 1926.

[H. R. 7.]

[Public, No. 522.]

CHAP. 801.—An Act To amend the Act entitled "An Act for the retirement of employees in the classified civil service, and for other purposes," approved May 22, 1920, and Acts in amendment thereof.

Retirement of classified civil service employees.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act entitled "An Act for the retirement of employees in the classified civil service, and for other purposes," approved May 22, 1920, and Acts in amendment thereof, be, and they are hereby, amended to read as follows:

ELIGIBILITY FOR SUPERANNUATION RETIREMENT

Age and service eligibility.
Vol. 41, p. 614, amended.

Professions.
Postal employees, laborers, and mechanics.

Railway postal clerks, hazardous pursuits, and service in the Tropics.

Mechanics, involuntarily transferred as laborers since August 20, 1920.

Mechanics, reduced after 30 years' service.

SEC. 1. All employees to whom this Act applies who, before its effective date, shall have attained or shall thereafter attain the age of seventy years and rendered at least fifteen years of service computed as prescribed in section 5 of this Act shall be eligible for retirement on an annuity as provided in section 4 hereof: *Provided*, That city, rural, and village letter carriers, post-office clerks, sea post clerks, laborers, and mechanics generally shall, under like conditions, be eligible for retirement at sixty-five years of age and that railway postal clerks and those employees engaged in pursuits whose occupation is hazardous or requires great physical effort, or which necessitates exposure to extreme heat or cold, and those employees whose terms of service shall include fifteen years or more of such service rendered in the Tropics, shall be eligible at sixty-two years of age; the classification of employees for the purpose of assignment to the various age groups shall be determined jointly by the Civil Service Commission and the head of the department, branch, or independent office of the Government concerned. *Provided further*, That any such employee who was employed as a mechanic for the major portion of his service, and not less than fifteen years, and was subsequent to August 20, 1920, involuntarily transferred to employment as a laborer and thereafter involuntarily discharged from the service of the United States, shall receive such annuity as he would have been entitled to, if on the day of his discharge from the service he had been retired under the provisions of this Act: *Provided further*, That any mechanic, having served thirty years, who was, through no fault of his own, transferred or reduced to a minor position, and who shall have attained, or who shall thereafter attain the age of sixty-two years, shall have his