

Charters.
Issue of, to each tribe,
upon petition therefor.

Proviso.
Ratification condi-
tion precedent to opera-
tion.

Powers conferred.

Revocation.

Inapplicable to res-
ervation rejecting prop-
osition.

Term "Indian" de-
fined.

"Tribe."

"Adult Indians."

SEC. 17. The Secretary of the Interior may, upon petition by at least one-third of the adult Indians, issue a charter of incorporation to such tribe: *Provided*, That such charter shall not become operative until ratified at a special election by a majority vote of the adult Indians living on the reservation. Such charter may convey to the incorporated tribe the power to purchase, take by gift, or bequest, or otherwise, own, hold, manage, operate, and dispose of property of every description, real and personal, including the power to purchase restricted Indian lands and to issue in exchange therefor interests in corporate property, and such further powers as may be incidental to the conduct of corporate business, not inconsistent with law, but no authority shall be granted to sell, mortgage, or lease for a period exceeding ten years any of the land included in the limits of the reservation. Any charter so issued shall not be revoked or surrendered except by Act of Congress.

SEC. 18. This Act shall not apply to any reservation wherein a majority of the adult Indians, voting at a special election duly called by the Secretary of the Interior, shall vote against its application. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior, within one year after the passage and approval of this Act, to call such an election, which election shall be held by secret ballot upon thirty days' notice.

SEC. 19. The term "Indian" as used in this Act shall include all persons of Indian descent who are members of any recognized Indian tribe now under Federal jurisdiction, and all persons who are descendants of such members who were, on June 1, 1934, residing within the present boundaries of any Indian reservation, and shall further include all other persons of one-half or more Indian blood. For the purposes of this Act, Eskimos and other aboriginal peoples of Alaska shall be considered Indians. The term "tribe" wherever used in this Act shall be construed to refer to any Indian tribe, organized band, pueblo, or the Indians residing on one reservation. The words "adult Indians" wherever used in this Act shall be construed to refer to Indians who have attained the age of twenty-one years.

Approved, June 18, 1934.

[CHAPTER 577.]

AN ACT

June 18, 1934.
[S. 3742.]

[Public, No. 384.]

Granting the consent of Congress to the State Board of Public Works of the State of Vermont to construct, maintain, and operate a toll bridge across Lake Champlain at or near West Swanton, Vermont.

Lake Champlain.
Vermont may bridge,
at West Swanton.

Construction.
Vol. 34, p. 84.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the consent of Congress is hereby granted to the State Board of Public Works of the State of Vermont 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 an 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.

Toll rates to be ad-
justed to provide cost
of operation and sink-
ing fund.

SEC. 2. If tolls are charged for the use of such bridge, the rates of tolls may be so adjusted as to provide a fund sufficient to pay (a) the reasonable cost of maintenance, repair, and operation of the said bridge and its approaches, and (b) the amortization within a reasonable time, and not exceeding twenty-five years from the

date that the bridge is opened to traffic, and under reasonable condition, of any loan or loans, including reasonable interest, taxes, and financing charges made or to be made in connection with the construction of said bridge and its approaches.

SEC. 3. An accurate record of the cost of the bridge and its approaches, and of all the expenditures for maintaining, repairing, and operating the same, and of the tolls collected from time to time, shall be kept and shall at all reasonable times be available for the information of all persons interested in the construction, operation, and maintenance thereof.

Record of expenditures and receipts.

SEC. 4. The right to sell, assign, transfer, mortgage, or pledge any or all of the rights, powers, and privileges conferred by this Act is hereby granted to the said State Board of Public Works of the State of Vermont or 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 through mortgage, pledge, foreclosure, or otherwise, including therein the United States of America acting by or through the President, the Federal Emergency Administrator of Public Works, such other agency or agencies as may be designated or created for such purpose pursuant to the National Industrial Recovery Act or any other amendment or supplement thereto, or any other agency or agencies as may be created for such purpose by the Congress of the United States, and such person or corporation is hereby authorized and empowered to exercise all of the rights, powers, and privileges conferred upon the State Board of Public Works of the State of Vermont as fully as though conferred herein directly upon such corporation or person.

Right to sell, etc., granted.

Ante, p. 200.

SEC. 5. Whenever a sum sufficient to amortize and pay off the amount of money used in building and constructing said bridge shall have been collected, the State Board of Public Works of the State of Vermont shall declare said bridge free and open to the use of the general public without the imposition of any further tolls or charges for the use of said bridge.

Maintenance as free bridge after amortizing costs.

SEC. 6. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Amendment.

Approved, June 18, 1934.

[CHAPTER 578.]

AN ACT

To enable the Postmaster General to withhold commissions on false returns made by postmasters.

June 18, 1934.
[S. 3765.]
[Public, No. 385.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That that part of the Act of June 17, 1878 (20 Stat. 141), which comprises section 45 of title 39, United States Code, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Postal service.
Vol. 20, p. 141; U.S.C.
p. 1237.

"In any case where the Postmaster General shall be satisfied that a postmaster has made a false return of business, or that a postmaster has mailed or caused to be mailed matter in order to obtain commissions on cancelations of stamps, it shall be within the discretion of the Postmaster General to withhold commissions on such returns and to allow any compensation that under the circumstances he may deem reasonable or proper. The form of affidavit to be made by postmasters upon their returns shall be such as may be prescribed by the Postmaster General."

Postmasters.
Withholding commissions, based on false returns of business.

Form of affidavit to be prescribed.

Approved, June 18, 1934.