

technical uses and new and extended markets and outlets for anthracite coal and its products. Such laboratory shall be planned as a center for information and assistance in matters pertaining to conserving resources for national defense; to the more efficient mining, preparation, and utilization of anthracite coal; and pertaining to safety, health, and sanitation in mining operations and other matters relating to problems of the anthracite industry.

SEC. 2. For the purpose of this Act the Secretary, acting through the United States Bureau of Mines, is authorized to acquire land and interests therein, and to accept in the name of the United States donations of any property, real or personal, and to utilize voluntary or uncompensated services at such laboratory. The Secretary is authorized and directed to cooperate with other departments or agencies of the Federal Government, States, and State agencies and institutions, counties, municipalities, business or other organizations, corporations, associations, universities, scientific societies, and individuals, upon such terms and conditions as he may prescribe.

SEC. 3. The Secretary, acting through the United States Bureau of Mines, shall make a report to Congress at the beginning of each regular session of the activities of, expenditures by, and donations to, the laboratory established under this Act.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the United States Bureau of Mines, may, in his discretion, create and establish an advisory committee composed of not more than six members to exercise consultative functions, when required by the Secretary, in connection with the administration of this Act. The said committee shall be composed of representatives of anthracite coal-mine owners, of representatives of anthracite coal-mine workers and the public in equal number. The members of said committee shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior without regard to the civil-service laws.

SEC. 5. In order to carry out the purposes of this Act there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of (a) \$450,000 for the erection and equipment of a building or buildings, including plumbing, lighting, heating, general service, and experimental equipment and apparatus, the necessary roads, walks, and ground improvement, and land for the site of the building if no land is donated; and (b) \$175,000 annually for the maintenance and operation of the experimental station, including personal services, supplies, equipment, and expenses of travel and subsistence.

Approved, December 18, 1942.

[CHAPTER 765]

AN ACT

To amend sections 1305 and 1306 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, to eliminate the prohibition against payment of deposits, and interest thereon, of enlisted men until final discharge.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the second sentence of section 1305, Revised Statutes, as amended, be, and the same is hereby, further amended to read as follows: "Any amount heretofore or hereafter so deposited shall be held during such period of his service as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War; shall be accounted for in the same manner as other public funds; shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States and kept as a separate fund, known as pay of the Army deposit fund, repayment of which to the enlisted man, or to his heirs or representatives, shall be made

Purpose.

Acquisition of property.

Voluntary services.
Cooperation with other agencies, etc.

Report to Congress.

Advisory committee.

Appropriations authorized.

December 18, 1942

[S. 2353]

[Public Law 813]

Army.
Savings deposits of enlisted men.
10 U. S. C. § 906.

Repayment.

out of the fund created by said deposits; shall not be subject to forfeiture by sentence of court-martial, but shall be forfeited by desertion; and shall be exempt from liability for such soldier's debts: *Provided*, That the Government shall be liable for the amount deposited to the person so depositing the same."

Proviso.

Interest.
10 U. S. C. § 907.

SEC. 2. Section 1306, Revised Statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows: "For any sums not less than \$5 so deposited for the period of six months, or longer, the soldier, on his final discharge or at such time or times prior thereto as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War, shall be paid interest at the rate of 4 per centum per annum."

Duration.

SEC. 3. The amendments herein provided shall be effective during the present war and for a period of one year thereafter.

Approved, December 18, 1942.

[CHAPTER 766]

AN ACT

December 18, 1942
[S. 2528]
[Public Law 814]

To provide for the settlement of certain claims of the Government of the United States on behalf of American nationals against the Government of Mexico.

Settlement of Mexican Claims Act of 1942.

American Mexican Claims Commission.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Settlement of Mexican Claims Act of 1942".

SEC. 2. (a) There is hereby established a commission to be known as the American Mexican Claims Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") and to be composed of three persons to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each member of the Commission shall receive a salary at the rate of \$10,000 a year. One of such members shall be designated by the President as Chairman of the Commission. Two members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as in the case of an original appointment.

Personal services.

(b) The Commission may, without regard to the civil-service laws, employ a secretary, and such legal, clerical, and technical assistants as may be necessary to carry out its functions under this Act, and shall fix their compensation without regard to the Classification Act of 1923, as amended.

42 Stat. 1488.
5 U. S. C. §§ 661-674;
Supp. I, ch. 13.
Ante, p. 733.
Rules and regulations.

(c) The Commission is authorized to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out its functions under this Act.

Termination of authority.

(d) The authority of the Commission under this Act, and the terms of office of its members, shall terminate at the expiration of two years after the date on which a majority of its members first appointed take office, but the President may by Executive order fix an earlier termination date. Upon the termination of the authority of the Commission, all books, records, documents, and other papers in the possession of the Commission shall be deposited with the Department of State.

Final decisions on certain claims.

SEC. 3. (a) The Commission shall have authority to examine and render final decisions in the following categories of claims on behalf of American nationals against the Government of Mexico—

Agrarian claims.

(1) Agrarian claims which arose between January 1, 1927, and August 30, 1927, inclusive, and which were not filed with the General Claims Commission established pursuant to the Convention between the United States and Mexico signed September 8, 1923 (43 Stat. 1730);

(2) Agrarian claims which are predicated upon provisional expropriation decrees signed between August 31, 1927, and December 1, 1938, inclusive, but not published prior to December 1, 1938, and