

March 4, 1923.

[S. 4117.]

[Public, No. 498.]

District of Columbia.
Grant Road N.W.
Portion of, closed on
acquiring land for Dav-
enport Street, etc.

Reversion to abut-
ting owners.

Tract to be sold.

Proviso.
Price restriction.

Proceeds for purchase
of playgrounds, etc.

CHAP. 247.—An Act Authorizing the closing of certain portions of Grant Road in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia be, and they are hereby, authorized to close, vacate, and abandon so much of Grant Road as lies between Reno Road and Connecticut Avenue northwest, upon the acquisition by the District of Columbia by dedication, purchase, or condemnation of the land lying within the lines of Davenport Street between Reno Road and Connecticut Avenue, and within the lines of Thirty-sixth Street between Davenport Street and Connecticut Avenue, as laid down upon the permanent system of high-ways for the District of Columbia, the title to the portion of said Grant Road so closed and abandoned to revert to the abutting property owners.

SEC. 2. That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia be, and they are hereby, authorized to sell a tract or parcel of land owned by the District of Columbia, numbered for purposes of assessment and taxation as parcel forty-six over twenty: *Provided*, That said tract or parcel of land shall not be sold by said commissioners at a price less than the assessed value thereof: *Provided further*, That the money so realized shall be expended in the purchase of a playground or school site.

Approved, March 4, 1923.

March 4, 1923.

[S. 4160.]

[Public, No. 499.]

United States Coal
Commission.
Ante, p. 1023, amend-
ed.

Established to secure
information of coal in-
dustry in interstate
commerce.

Composition, appoint-
ment, etc.

Judges eligible with-
out impairing office.

Congressional inelig-
ibility.

Organization.

Salaries.

CHAP. 248.—An Act To amend the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to establish a commission for the purpose of securing information in connection with questions relative to interstate commerce in coal, and for other purposes," approved September 22, 1922.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first paragraph of the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to establish a commission for the purpose of securing information in connection with questions relative to interstate commerce in coal, and for other purposes," approved September 22, 1922, is amended to read as follows:

"That for the purpose of securing information in connection with questions relative to interstate commerce in coal and all questions and problems arising out of and connected with the coal industry, there is hereby established a governmental agency to be known and designated as the United States Coal Commission, to be composed of not more than seven members appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Judges of courts of the United States shall be eligible for appointment as members of the commission, and the appointment, qualification, and service of a judge as member shall in nowise affect or impair his tenure as judge. No member of the United States Senate or of the House of Representatives shall be eligible to serve on said commission. Said commission shall elect a chairman by majority vote of its members and shall maintain central offices in the District of Columbia, but may, whenever it deems it necessary, meet at such other place as it may determine. A member of the commission may be removed by the President for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office but for no other cause. Each member of said commission shall receive a salary of \$7,500 a year, except that if a judge of any court of the United States serves as a member of the commission, he shall continue to receive only his salary as judge, and shall receive no

salary as a member of the commission, but any such judge hereafter serving as a member of the commission, or who has heretofore under appointment by the President served on or advised with the commission, shall be allowed for his necessary expenses of travel and reasonable expenses of maintenance while necessarily away from his place of official residence as judge and in the service of the commission, the same amount, and upon like certificate, as is by law allowed circuit and district judges of the United States when transacting official business at places other than their place of official residence as judge, such payment to be paid out of any appropriation for said commission. Any vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. Said commission shall cease to exist one year after taking effect of this Act."

Travel, etc., expenses of judge while serving.

SEC. 2. That such Act of September 22, 1922, is amended by adding after the fourteenth paragraph thereof the following:

"That the commission or any officer, employee, or agent thereof may prepare and submit to and require to be answered by any person written questions of fact concerning any of the matters which by this Act the commission is empowered or directed to investigate, and such person shall thereupon answer fully and in good faith any and all questions so propounded. Such answers shall be in writing and shall be verified by oath of the persons making them and shall be returned to the commission or its officer or agent within the time which the commission or any officer or agent thereof may prescribe. The oath may be taken before any member of the commission or any officer or agent of the commission by it duly authorized, or before any officer authorized to administer oaths either by the laws of the United States or the laws of the State in which verification is made, but when taken before a notary or other State officer such oath shall be certified under the hand and official seal of such officer."

Termination of existence.

New matter. *Act*, p. 1024, amended.

Questions to be prepared by Commission.

Answers to be in writing under oath, etc.

Authentication.

SEC. 3. That the seventeenth paragraph of such Act of September 22, 1922, is amended to read as follows:

Act, p. 1025, amended.

"That any person who shall willfully neglect or refuse to attend and testify or depose, or to produce or permit access to any book, account, record, document, correspondence, paper, or other evidence, or to answer any written questions propounded by the commission or any officer or agent thereof, as herein provided for, and any person who shall willfully give false testimony in respect of any matter or thing under investigation by the commission, or shall make or cause to be made any false entry or statement of fact in any written answer or report called for by the commission or any officer or agent thereof, and any person who shall make or cause to be made any false entry or statement of fact in any book, account, record, document, correspondence, paper, or other evidence, with intent to deceive the commission or any officer or agent thereof, shall be guilty of an offense and upon conviction thereof be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Punishment for specified offenses.

"That in case of disobedience to any subpoena issued by the commission or any member thereof, or of refusal or neglect to testify fully and freely concerning any matter or thing under investigation by the commission, or of refusal to make written answer to any question propounded by the commission or any officer or agent thereof, or of refusal to permit access to any book, account, record, document, correspondence, paper, or other evidence, by any person, the commission may invoke the aid of the District Court of the United States for the district in which such person resides, in requiring obedience to its process, orders, and requests; and the several District Courts of the United States are hereby invested

Assistance of Federal courts to secure obedience to orders, requests, etc.

with jurisdiction in case of such contumacy or refusal to obey the process, orders, and requests of the commission to issue an order requiring compliance therewith. Any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt thereof."

SEC. 4. That the last paragraph of such Act of September 22, 1922, is amended to read as follows:

"There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$600,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be available until expended, for carrying out the provisions of this Act."

Approved, March 4, 1923.

Punishment as contempt.
A note, p. 1025, amended.
Authorization for expenses.
Post, p. 1530.

March 4, 1923.
[S. 4197.]
[Public, No. 500.]

CHAP. 249.—An Act To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue to certain persons and certain corporations permits to explore, or leases of, certain lands that lie south of the medial line of the main channel of Red River, in Oklahoma, and for other purposes.

Oklahoma.
Adjustment of claims for oil and gas deposits on public lands in, south of the Red River.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to adjust and determine the equitable claims of citizens of the United States, and domestic corporations to lands and oil and gas deposits belonging to the United States and situated south of the medial line of the main channel of Red River, Oklahoma, which lands were claimed and possessed in good faith by such citizens or corporations, or their predecessors in interest, prior to February 25, 1920, and upon which lands expenditures were made in good faith and with reasonable diligence in an effort to discover or develop oil or gas, by issuance of permits or leases to those found equitably entitled thereto.

Permits or leases to issue.

Applications for permits and leases.

SEC. 2. That applications for permits and leases under this Act shall be made to the Secretary of the Interior, and shall be made within and not after sixty days from and after the date that this Act becomes a law. Leases and permits under this Act may be granted to the assignees or successors in interest of the original locators or the original claimants in all cases where the original locators or original claimants have assigned or transferred their rights, but when leases or permits are granted to the assignees or successors in interest of the original locators or original claimants the said leases and permits shall be subject to all contracts, not contrary to law or public policy, between the original locators or original claimants and their successors in interest.

Effect of assignments.

In case of conflicting claimants for permits or leases under this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to grant permits or leases to one or more of them as shall be deemed just.

Conflicting claims.

SEC. 3. That not more than one hundred and sixty acres shall be granted by leases or permits to any one person or corporation, except in those cases where two or more locations or claims have been assigned to one person or corporation, and in such cases not more than six hundred and forty acres shall be granted by leases or permits to any one person or corporation.

Areas limited.

SEC. 4. That each lessee shall be required to pay as royalty to the United States an amount equal to the value at the time of production of 12½ per centum of all oil and gas produced by him prior to the issuance of the lease, except oil or gas used on the property for production purposes or unavoidably lost; and shall be required to pay to the United States a royalty of not less than 12½ per centum of all oil and gas produced by him after the issuance of the lease, except oil and gas used on the property for production pur-

Royalty required. On prior production.

After issue of lease.