

of construction of such bridge and approaches and the acquisition of such interests in real property), and (4) actual expenditures for necessary improvements.

Right to acquire real estate, etc., for location, approaches, etc.

SEC. 4. There is hereby conferred upon the said W. D. Comer and Wesley Vandercook, their heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, all such rights and powers to enter upon lands and to acquire, condemn, appropriate, occupy, possess, and use real estate and other property needed for the location, construction, operation, or maintenance of such bridge, approaches, and terminals as are possessed by bridge corporations for bridge purposes in the States in which such real estate and other property are located, upon making proper compensation therefor, to be ascertained according to the laws of such States and the proceedings thereof may be the same as in the condemnation and expropriation of property in such States.

Condemnation proceedings.

SEC. 5. If such bridge shall be taken over and acquired by the States or political subdivisions thereof under the provisions of section 3 of this Act, the same may thereafter be operated as a toll bridge; in fixing the rates of toll to be charged for the use of such bridge the same shall be so adjusted as to provide, as far as possible, a sufficient fund to pay for the cost of maintaining, repairing, and operating the bridge and its approaches, to pay an adequate return on the cost thereof, and to provide a sinking fund sufficient to amortize the cost thereof within a period of not to exceed thirty years from the date of acquiring the same. After a sinking fund sufficient to pay the cost of acquiring such bridge and its approaches shall have been provided, the bridge thereafter shall be maintained and operated free of tolls, or the rates of toll shall be so adjusted as to provide a fund not to exceed the amount necessary for the proper care, repair, maintenance, and operation of the bridge and its approaches.

Tolls under State, etc., operation.
Rates applied to operation, sinking fund, etc.

Maintenance as free bridge, etc., after amortizing of costs.

SEC. 6. The right to sell, assign, transfer, and mortgage all the rights, powers, and privileges conferred by this Act is hereby granted to the said W. D. Comer and Wesley Vandercook, their heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, and any corporation to which such rights, powers, and privileges may be sold, assigned, or transferred, or which shall acquire the same by mortgage foreclosure or otherwise, is hereby authorized and empowered to exercise the same as fully as though conferred herein directly upon such corporation.

Right to sell, etc., conferred.

SEC. 7. The said W. D. Comer and Wesley Vandercook, their heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, shall, within ninety days after the completion of such bridge, file with the Secretary of War a sworn itemized statement showing the actual original cost of constructing such bridge and approaches, including the actual cost of acquiring interests in real property and actual financing and promotion costs. Within three years after the completion of such bridge the Secretary of War shall investigate the actual cost of such bridge, and for such purpose the said W. D. Comer and Wesley Vandercook, their heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, shall make available to the Secretary of War all of their records in connection with the financing and construction thereof. The findings of the Secretary of War as to such actual original costs shall be conclusive.

Sworn statement of construction cost, etc., to be filed after completion.

Investigation by Secretary of War.

Findings of Secretary conclusive.

Amendment.

SEC. 8. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, January 28, 1927.

January 29, 1927.

[S. 1857.]

[Public, No. 575.]

CHAP. 62.—An Act To confer jurisdiction on the Court of Claims to certify certain findings of fact, and for other purposes.

Longevity pay of Army officers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Court of

Claims shall certify to the proper accounting officers of the United States the findings of fact heretofore made for claimants in claims of officers of the United States Army for longevity pay under the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States in United States against Morton (volume 112, United States Reports, page 1) and United States against Watson (volume 130, United States Reports, page 80), and of the Court of Claims in Stewart against United States (volume 34, Court of Claims Reports, page 553).

And that the proper accounting officers of the United States shall proceed to settle the claims so certified and all other claims for longevity pay and allowances on account of services of officers in the Regular Army arising under section 15 of an Act approved July 5, 1838, entitled "An Act to increase the present Military Establishment of the United States, and for other purposes," and subsequent Acts affecting longevity pay and allowances, in accordance with the decisions of the courts of the United States in all cases in which heretofore, namely, between 1890 and 1908, such claims were disallowed by any accounting officer of the Treasury, and no decision of a comptroller heretofore made against a claimant under said section 15 shall prevent a settlement under the terms of this Act of any such disallowed claim. Every such claim shall be payable to the claimant or to his widow or to his legal representative: *Provided*, That no claim hereunder shall be allowed if made by any person who is an assignee of such claim nor to a legal representative without proof of the existence of blood relations to whom the fund would be distributed: *Provided further*, That it shall be unlawful for any agent or attorney, firm of attorneys, or any person engaged heretofore or hereafter in preparing, presenting, or prosecuting any claim under this Act to charge or receive more than 10 per centum of any amount appropriated in satisfaction of the claim.

Approved, January 29, 1927.

CHAP. 63.—An Act Granting the consent of Congress to the city of Quincy, State of Illinois, its successors and assigns, to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge across the Mississippi River.

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 city of Quincy, State of Illinois, its successors and assigns, to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Mississippi River at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, between the city of Quincy, State of Illinois, and a point opposite in the State of Missouri, in accordance with the provisions of the 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.

SEC. 2. There is hereby conferred upon the city of Quincy, its successors and assigns, all such rights and powers to enter upon lands and to acquire, condemn, occupy, possess, and use real estate and other property needed for the location, construction, operation, and maintenance of such bridge and its approaches as are possessed by railroad corporations for railroad purposes or by bridge corporations for bridge purposes in the State in which such real estate or other property is situated, upon making just compensation therefor, to be ascertained and paid according to the laws of such State, and the proceedings therefor shall be the same as in the condemnation or expropriation of property in such State.

SEC. 3. The said city of Quincy, its successors and assigns, is hereby authorized to fix and charge tolls for transit over such bridge,

Court of Claims to certify findings of fact in claims for, to accounting officers.

Settlement thereof, and other disallowed claims, directed.

Vol. 5, p. 258.

Beneficiaries.

Proviso. Limitation of payment.

Fee restricted.

February 1, 1927.

[H. R. 15014.]

[Public, No. 576.]

Mississippi River, Quincy, Ill., authorized to bridge.

Construction. Vol. 34, p. 84.

Right to condemn, etc., real estate for location, etc.

Condemnation proceedings.

Tolls authorized.