

hereby extended one and three years, respectively, from March 10, 1929.

SEC. 2. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, February 9, 1929.

CHAP. 169.—An Act Granting the consent of Congress to the Danville and Western Railway Company to reconstruct, maintain, and operate the existing railroad bridge across the Dan River in Pittsylvania County, Virginia.

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 Danville and Western Railway Company, a corporation of the State of Virginia, its successors and assigns, to reconstruct, maintain, and operate its existing railroad bridge and approaches thereto across the Dan River, at a point seven and eight-tenths miles west of Danville, in Pittsylvania County, in the State of Virginia, in accordance with the provisions of an Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters," approved March 23, 1906.

SEC. 2. The right to sell, assign, transfer, and mortgage all the rights, powers, and privileges conferred by this Act is hereby granted to the Danville and Western Railway Company, a corporation of the State of Virginia, its successors 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 to exercise the same as fully as though conferred herein directly upon such corporation.

SEC. 3. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, February 9, 1929.

CHAP. 170.—An Act To extend the time for completing the construction of the bridge across Port Washington Narrows, within the city of Bremerton, State of Washington.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the time for completing the construction of the bridge across Port Washington Narrows, within the city of Bremerton, State of Washington, authorized by the Act of Congress, entitled "An Act granting the consent of Congress to W. E. Buell, of Seattle, Washington, to construct a bridge across Port Washington Narrows, within the city of Bremerton, in the State of Washington," approved June 14, 1926, be, and the same is hereby, extended three years from June 14, 1929.

SEC. 2. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, February 9, 1929.

CHAP. 172.—An Act For the relief of hay growers in Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris Counties, Texas.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Comptroller General of the United States be, and is hereby, authorized and directed to examine and settle, on the basis of facts and figures to be found and reported by the Secretary of Agriculture, the claims of hay growers in Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris Counties, Texas,

Amendment.

February 9, 1929.

[S. 4957.]

[Public, No. 716.]

Dan River.
Danville and Western Railway Company may reconstruct, etc., bridge across, in Pittsylvania County, Va.

Construction.
Vol. 34, p. 84.

Right to sell, etc., conferred.

Amendment.

February 9, 1929.

[H. R. 16035.]

[Public, No. 717.]

Port Washington Narrows.
Time extended for bridging, at Bremerton, Wash.
Vol. 44, p. 744.

Amendment.

February 11, 1929.

[S. 4818.]

[Public, No. 713.]

Texas hay growers.
Comptroller General to examine, and settle claims of, prevented by animal diseases quarantine, from harvesting 1925 crop in Brazoria, etc., Counties.

who were prevented during the year 1925 from harvesting their hay because of quarantine restrictions against the spread of the hoof and mouth disease: *Provided*, That the allowance made on any such claim shall not exceed the amount paid thereon by the Livestock Sanitary Commission of Texas, pursuant to an act of the State legislature approved October 6, 1926. There is hereby appropriated, from any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sufficient amount, not to exceed \$218,177.50, to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to pay such of the claims as may be allowed by the Comptroller General: *Provided*, That no part of the amount of any item appropriated in this Act in excess of 10 per centum thereof shall be paid or delivered to or received by any agent or agents, attorney or attorneys, on account of services rendered in connection with said claim. It shall be unlawful for any agent or agents, attorney or attorneys, to exact, collect, withhold, or receive any sum which in the aggregate exceeds 10 per centum of the amount of any item appropriated in this Act on account of services rendered in connection with said claim, any contract to the contrary notwithstanding. Any person violating the provisions of this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not exceeding \$1,000.

Approved, February 11, 1929.

Proviso.
Allowance limited.

Appropriation for
paying allowed claims.

Maximum allowances
to attorneys for serv-
ices.

Receiving in excess,
unlawful.

Penalty for.

February 11, 1929.
[S. 3581.]

[Public, No. 719.]

CHAP. 173.—An Act Authorizing the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to settle claims and suits against the District of Columbia.

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 hereby are, empowered to settle, in their discretion, claims and suits, either at law or in equity, against the District of Columbia whenever the cause of action—

District of Colum-
bia.
Claims against, to be
settled by the Com-
missioners.

Negligent acts, etc.,
of employees.

Where District legal-
ly responsible.

Refund of taxes, etc.,
erroneously assessed
subsequent to Septem-
ber 1, 1916.

Proviso.
Time for filing, re-
quired.

Statute of limitations
not reduced.

Limit of amount.

Report to Congress.

(a) Arises out of the negligence or wrongful act, either of commission or omission, of any officer or employee of the District of Columbia for whose negligence or acts the District of Columbia is prima facie liable to respond in damages.

(b) Arises out of the existence of facts and circumstances which place the claim or suit within the doctrines and principles of law decided by the courts of the District of Columbia or by the Supreme Court of the United States to be controlling in the District of Columbia.

SEC. 2. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia are hereby authorized and empowered to grant relief in claims for refund of taxes paid, or for cancellation of assessments heretofore made and subsequent to September 1, 1916, in such cases where like assessments, or assessments against property of similar character, have been held to be void or erroneous by decision of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, or the Supreme Court of the United States: *Provided*, That any claims for refunds of taxes heretofore paid or for cancellations of assessments heretofore made shall be filed within one year from the approval of this Act.

Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed as reducing the period of the statute of limitations.

SEC. 3. No settlement of any claim or cause of action herein authorized to be made by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall in any event exceed the sum of \$5,000 and all settlements entered into by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia acting under the terms and provisions of this Act shall be presented