To authorize the Post Office Department to hold contractors responsible in damages for the loss, rifling, damage, wrong delivery, depredation upon, or other mistreatment of mail matter due to fault or negligence of the contractor or an agent or employee thereof.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 3962 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by the Act of May 11, 1926 (44 Stat. 499; U.S.C., Supp. VII, title 39, sec. 443), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"The Postmaster General may make deductions from the pay of contractors for failure to perform service according to contract and impose fines upon them for other delinquencies, which deductions or fines may be changed or remitted, in his discretion. Contractors shall also be answerable in damages to the United States for the proper care and transportation of the mails, and be accountable to the United States for any loss or damage resulting to any of such mail or any part of it by reason of the failure to exercise due care on the part of any of the contractor's officers, agents, or employees in the custody, handling, or transportation thereof. He may deduct the price of the trip in all cases where the trip is not performed and not exceeding three times the price if the failure be occasioned by the fault of the contractor or carrier."

Approved, June 13, 1934.

To provide a preliminary examination of the Paint Rock River in Jackson County, Alabama, with a view to the control of its floods.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause a preliminary examination to be made of the Paint Rock River, in Jackson County, Alabama, with a view to the control of its floods, in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of an Act entitled "An Act to provide for control of the floods of the Mississippi River, and of the Sacramento River, California, and for other purposes”, approved March 1, 1917, the cost thereof to be paid from appropriations heretofore or hereafter made for examinations, surveys, and contingencies of rivers and harbors.

Approved, June 13, 1934.

To provide for a preliminary examination of the Connecticut River, with a view to the control of its floods and prevention of erosion of its banks in the State of Massachusetts.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War is authorized and directed to cause a preliminary examination to be made of the Connecticut River, with a view to control of its floods and prevention of erosion of its banks in the State of Massachusetts, in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the control of the floods of the Mississippi River and of the Sacramento River, California, and
for other purposes”, approved March 1, 1917 (U.S.C., title 33, sec. 701), the cost thereof to be paid from appropriations heretofore or hereafter made for examinations, surveys, and contingencies of rivers and harbors.

Approved, June 13, 1934.

[CHAPTER 493.]

AN ACT

To exempt from taxation certain property of The American Legion in 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 property situated in square 185 in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, described as lots 32 and 33, owned, occupied, and used by The American Legion, is hereby exempt from all taxation so long as the same is so owned and occupied, and not used for commercial purposes, subject to the provisions of section 8 of the Act of March 3, 1877, as amended and supplemented (D.C. Code, title 20, sec. 712), providing for exemptions of church and school property.

Approved, June 13, 1934.

[CHAPTER 494.]

AN ACT

To provide a preliminary examination of the Cowlitz River and its tributaries in the State of Washington, with a view to the control of its floods.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause a preliminary examination to be made of the Cowlitz River and its tributaries in the State of Washington, with a view to the control of its floods, in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of an Act entitled “An Act to provide for control of floods of the Mississippi River, and of the Sacramento River, California, and for other purposes”, approved March 1, 1917, the cost thereof to be paid from appropriations heretofore or hereafter made for examinations, surveys, and contingencies of rivers and harbors.

Approved, June 13, 1934.

[CHAPTER 495.]

AN ACT

To provide a preliminary examination of Chehalis River and its tributaries in the State of Washington, with a view to the control of its floods.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause a preliminary examination to be made of the Chehalis River and its tributaries in the State of Washington, with a view to the control of its floods, in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of an Act entitled “An Act to provide for control of floods of the Mississippi River, and of the Sacramento River, California, and for other purposes”, approved March 1, 1917, the cost thereof to be paid from appropriations heretofore or hereafter made for examinations, surveys, and contingencies of rivers and harbors.

Approved, June 13, 1934.