CHAPTER 509

AN ACT

Relating to the development of farm units on public lands under Federal reclamation projects with funds furnished by the Farm Security Administration.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, during the fiscal year of 1940, in order to further cooperation between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Farm Security Administration in the development of farm units on public lands under Federal reclamation projects, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized, in pursuance of cooperative agreements between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, (1) to consider the money or any part of the money made available to settlers or prospective settlers by the Farm Security Administration, as all or a portion of the capital required of such settlers under subsection C of section 4 of the Act of December 5, 1924 (43 Stat. 702); and (2) where such farm units have been or may be improved by means of funds made available by the Farm Security Administration, to require an entryman of any such unit to enter into a mortgage contract with the Farm Security Administration to repay the value of such improvements thereon before an entry is allowed.

Approved, August 7, 1939.

CHAPTER 510

AN ACT

Authorizing the county of Howard, State of Missouri, to construct, maintain, and operate a toll bridge across the Missouri River at or near Petersburg, Missouri.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to promote interstate commerce, improve the postal service, and provide for military and other purposes, the county of Howard, State of Missouri, be, and is hereby, authorized to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Missouri River, at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, at or near Petersburg, 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 county of Howard, State of Missouri, 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, maintenance, and operation 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 for public purposes in such State.

Sec. 3. The said county of Howard, State of Missouri, is hereby authorized to fix and charge tolls for transit over such bridge, and the rates of toll so fixed shall be the legal rates until changed by the Secretary of War under the authority contained in the Act of March 23, 1906.

Sec. 4. In fixing the rates of toll to be charged for the use of such bridge the same shall be so adjusted as to provide a fund sufficient to pay for the reasonable cost of maintaining, repairing, and operating
the bridge and its approaches under economical management, and to provide a sinking fund sufficient to amortize the cost of such bridge and its approaches, including interest at a rate of not to exceed 5 per centum per annum and reasonable financing cost, as approved by the Commissioner of Public Roads, as soon as possible, under reasonable charges, but within a period of not to exceed twenty-five years from the completion thereof. After a sinking fund sufficient for such amortization shall have been so provided, such bridge shall thereafter be maintained and operated free of tolls. An accurate record of the cost of the bridge and its approaches, the expenditures for maintaining, repairing, and operating the same, and of the daily tolls collected shall be kept and shall be available for the information of all persons interested.

Sec. 5. Notwithstanding any restrictions or limitations imposed by the Act entitled "An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in the construction of rural post roads, and for other purposes", approved July 11, 1916, or by the Federal Highway Act, or by an Act amendatory of, or supplemental to either thereof, the Secretary of Agriculture or any other Federal Department or agency of the United States Government may extend Federal aid under such Acts for the construction of said bridge out of any money allocated to the State of Missouri with the consent of the State highway commission of said State.

Sec. 6. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, August 7, 1939.

[CHAPTER 511]

AN ACT

To facilitate certain construction work for the Army, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That to enable the Secretary of War to accomplish without delay or excessive cost those public-works projects for which appropriations are available or may become available, to be located in Alaska and the Panama Canal Zone, he is hereby authorized to enter into contracts upon a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee basis after such negotiations as he may authorize and approve and without advertising for proposals with reference thereto. Approval by the President shall be necessary to the validity of any contract entered into under authority of this section. The fixed fee to be paid the contractor as a result of any contract entered into under authority of this section shall be determined at or before the time such contract is made, and shall be set forth in such contract. Such fee shall not exceed 10 per centum of the estimated cost of the contract, exclusive of the fee, as determined by the Secretary of War. Changes in the amount of the fee shall be made only upon material changes in the scope of the work concerned as determined by the Secretary of War whose determination shall be conclusive.

(b) Negotiations under this section shall be between the Secretary of War, or a duly authorized representative, and three or more reputable and qualified contracting individuals, firms, or corporations regularly engaged in work of comparable magnitude and class to that contemplated by the negotiations, as determined by the Secretary of War, and contracts may be made with any such individual, firm, or corporation, or with any two or more of them jointly, upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary of War may determine to be fair and equitable and in the interests of the national defense.