

Credits in accounts allowed.

September 1, 1923, is approved. Credit for all such supplies so issued and funds so disbursed in connection therewith and with relief tendered by the Army shall be allowed in the settlement of the accounts of the officers of the Army.

Approved, February 24, 1925.

February 24, 1925.
[H. R. 8267.]
[Public, No. 448.]

CHAP. 298.—An Act For the purchase of land adjoining Fort Bliss, Texas.

Fort Bliss, Tex.
Additional land to be purchased for.

Post, p. 1344.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a sum not to exceed \$366,000 is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purchase of land in the vicinity of and for use in connection with the present military reservation at Fort Bliss, Texas, and the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to make said purchase.

Approved, February 24, 1925.

February 24, 1925.
[S. 2746.]
[Public, No. 449.]

CHAP. 299.—An Act Regulating the recovery of allotments and allowances heretofore paid to designated beneficiaries.

War Risk Insurance Act.
Payments made to beneficiaries under Army allotment system not recoverable.
Vol. 42, p. 153.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That so much of section 210 of the War Risk Insurance Act, as amended by the Act of August 9, 1921 (Forty-second Statutes, page 153), as precludes the recovery of an award of allotment, or allowance, or both, paid to, or on behalf of a person designated as beneficiary of an allotment under the War Risk Insurance Act prior to August 9, 1921, shall hereafter be applicable to allotments paid prior to August 9, 1921, to beneficiaries designated under the Army allotment system by any person who served in the Army.

Approved, February 24, 1925.

February 24, 1925.
[S. 3252.]
[Public, No. 450.]

CHAP. 300.—An Act Referring the claim of the State of Rhode Island for expenses during the war with Spain to the Court of Claims for adjudication.

Rhode Island.
Claim of, for expenses in War with Spain, referred to Court of Claims.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the items of the claim of the State of Rhode Island against the United States for expenses incurred and paid in aiding the United States to raise its Volunteer Army in the war with Spain, which items, either in whole or in part, were rejected by the accounting officers of the Treasury Department, be, and the same are hereby, referred to the Court of Claims for adjudication and report to Congress.

Approved, February 24, 1925.

February 24, 1925.
[S. 3793.]
[Public, No. 451.]

CHAP. 301.—An Act To authorize the appointment of commissioners by the Court of Claims and to prescribe their powers and compensation.

Court of Claims.
Commissioners to be appointed to take evidence and report facts to court.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That to afford the Court of Claims needed facilities for the disposition of suits brought therein said court is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint seven competent persons, to be known as commissioners, who shall attend the taking of or take evidence in cases that may be assigned to them severally by the court and make report of the facts in the case

to the court. Any commissioner shall proceed under such rules and regulations as may be promulgated by the court and such orders as the court may make in the particular case, and may have and perform the general duties that pertain to special masters in suits in equity. He may fix the times for hearings, administer oaths, examine witnesses, and receive evidence. Parties to the suit may appear before the commissioner in person or by attorney, produce evidence, and examine witnesses. Subpœnas for witnesses or for the production of testimony before the commissioner may issue out of the court by the clerk thereof and shall be served by a United States marshal in any judicial district to whom they are directed. The rules of the court shall provide for a finding and report of facts by a commissioner, to be filed in court with the testimony upon which the same is based, and for exceptions thereto, in whole or in part, by the parties to the suit, and a hearing thereon within such reasonable time as the court's rules or order may prescribe. Nothing in this section shall be so construed as to prevent the court from passing upon all questions and findings without regard to whether exceptions were or were not taken at the hearings before the commissioner. Any person appointed as commissioner may be removed at the pleasure of the court.

Procedure.

Finding and report of facts to be filed with testimony.

Authority of court not impaired.

SEC. 2. Each of said commissioners shall devote all of his time to the duties of his office, and receive a salary of \$5,000 per annum, payable monthly out of the Treasury. The commissioners and stenographers authorized by the court shall also receive their necessary traveling expenses and their actual expenses incurred for subsistence while traveling on duty and away from Washington in an amount not to exceed \$7 per day in the case of commissioners and \$4 per day in the case of stenographers. The expenses of travel and subsistence herein authorized shall be paid upon the order of the court.

Salaries and expenses. Post, p. 1335.

SEC. 3. This Act and all appointments made thereunder shall cease and determine three years after the date of its approval by the President.

Termination in three years.

Approved, February 24, 1925.

CHAP. 302.—An Act To authorize the coinage of silver 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Bennington and the independence of Vermont, in commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the admission of California into the Union and in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Fort Vancouver, State of Washington.

February 24, 1925.
[S. 3895.]
[Public, No. 452.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Bennington and the independence of Vermont there shall be coined in the mints of the United States silver 50-cent pieces to the number of forty thousand, such 50-cent pieces to be of the standard troy weight, composition, diameter, device, and design as shall be fixed by the Director of the Mint, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, which said 50-cent pieces shall be legal tender in any payment to the amount of their face value.

Silver 50-cent pieces. Coinage authorized of, to commemorate Battle of Bennington, Vt.

SEC. 2. That in commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the admission of the State of California into the Union there shall be coined at the mints of the United States silver 50-cent pieces to the number of not more than three hundred thousand, such 50-cent pieces to be of the standard troy weight, composition, diameter, device, and design as shall be fixed by the Director of the Mint, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, which said 50-cent pieces shall be legal tender in any payment to the amount of their face value.

To commemorate seventy-fifth anniversary of admission of California.