

Second Assistant Postmaster General, and the personnel therein shall be a part of the Railway Mail Service under the same working conditions, rates of pay, travel allowance, and other benefits applicable to railway postal clerks: *And provided further*, That payment for such service shall be from the appropriations for Railway Mail Service salaries and railway postal clerks' travel allowance.

Payment for service.

SEC. 3. Every individual or company carrying the mails shall carry on any vehicle it operates and without extra charge therefor the persons in charge of the mails and when on duty and traveling to and from duty, and all duly accredited agents and officers of the Post Office Department and post-office inspectors while traveling on official business, upon the exhibition of their credentials.

Carriage of persons in charge of mails, etc.

SEC. 4. The Postmaster General is authorized to promulgate such specifications, rules, and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Regulations, etc.

Approved, July 11, 1940.

[CHAPTER 583]

AN ACT

Authorizing advancements from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works for the construction of a recorder of deeds building in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

July 11, 1940
[H. R. 9114]
[Public, No. 741]

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 are hereby authorized to accept advancements for the District of Columbia from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, or its successor, and said Administration, or its successor, with the approval of the President is authorized to advance to said Commissioners the sum of \$450,000, or any part thereof, in addition to any sums heretofore advanced to the District of Columbia by said Administration, or its successor, out of funds authorized by law for said Administration, or its successor, for a building for the office of the recorder of deeds to be located on premises now known at 515 D Street Northwest, formerly used as the police court, as recommended by a committee appointed by the Commissioners under order of January 12, 1940, and the making of such advances is hereby included among the purposes for which funds heretofore appropriated or authorized for said Administration, or its successor, including funds appropriated by the Public Works Administration Appropriation Act of 1938, may be used, in addition to the other purposes specified in the respective Acts appropriating or authorizing said funds.

District of Columbia.
Recorder of deeds building, construction.
Advancement of funds.

52 Stat. 816.
15 U. S. C., Supp.
V, ch. 16 (note).

SEC. 2. The sum authorized by section 1 hereof, or any part thereof shall, when advanced, be available to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for the preparation of plans, designs, estimates, models, and specifications; and for architectural and other necessary professional services required for carrying out the provisions of this Act; for the construction of a recorder of deeds building, including materials and labor, heating, lighting, elevators, plumbing, landscaping, transportation or rental thereof, and all other appurtenances, and the purchase and installation of machinery, furniture, equipment, apparatus, and any and all other expenditures necessary for or incident to the complete construction and equipment for use of the aforesaid building and plant.

Use of funds.

SEC. 3. That the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, or its successor, shall be repaid 55 per centum of any moneys advanced under section 1 of this Act in annual installments over a period of not to exceed twenty-five years with interest thereon at such rate as is agreed upon by the Commissioners of the District and

Repayment.

Provisos.
Inclusion of sums in
annual D. C. esti-
mates.

Minimum reim-
bursement under des-
ignated Act.
46 Stat. 485.

Report to Congress.

the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, or its successor, for the period of amortization: *Provided*, That such sums as may be necessary for the reimbursement herein required of the District of Columbia, and for the payment of interest, shall be included in the annual estimates of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, the first reimbursement with interest to be made not later than June 30, 1944: *Provided further*, That whenever the District of Columbia is under obligation by virtue of the provisions of section 4 of Public Act Numbered 284, Seventy-first Congress, reimbursement under that Act shall not be less than \$300,000 in any one fiscal year.

SEC. 4. That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall submit with their annual estimates to the Congress a report of their activities and expenditures under section 1 of this Act.

Approved, July 11, 1940.

[CHAPTER 618]

AN ACT

To provide for the disposition of estates of American citizens who die abroad.

July 12, 1940
[S. 4097]
[Public, No. 742]

Disposition of es-
tates of American citi-
zens who die abroad.
22 U. S. C. §§ 75-77.

Duties of consular,
etc., officers.

Settlement of es-
tates, exception.

Provisos.
Treaty, etc., author-
ization.

No legal representa-
tive, etc.

Provisional conser-
vator.

Administrator.

Guarding, etc., of
property.

Inventory and ap-
praisal.

Collection of debts,
etc.

Sale of property to
pay debts, etc.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That sections 1709, 1710, and 1711 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (U. S. C., title 22, secs. 75 and 77), are hereby amended to read as follows:

"1709. It shall be the duty of a consular officer, or, if no consular officer is present, a diplomatic officer, under such procedural regulations as the Secretary of State may prescribe—

"First. To take possession and to dispose of the personal estate left by any citizen of the United States, except a seaman who is a member of the crew of an American vessel, who shall die within or is domiciled at time of death within his jurisdiction: *Provided*, That such procedure is authorized by treaty provisions or permitted by the laws or authorities of the country wherein the death occurs, or the decedent is domiciled, or that such privilege is accorded by established usage: *Provided further*, That the decedent shall leave in the country where the death occurred or where he was domiciled, no legal representative, partner in trade, or trustee by him appointed to take care of his personal estate. A consular officer or, in his absence, a diplomatic officer shall act as the provisional conservator of the personal property within his jurisdiction of a deceased citizen of the United States but, unless authorized by treaty provisions, local law, or usage, he shall not act as administrator of such personal property. He shall render assistance in guarding, collecting, and transmitting the property to the United States to be disposed of according to the law of the decedent's domicile.

"Second. After having taken possession of the personal property, as provisional conservator, to inventory and carefully appraise the effects, article by article, with the assistance of two competent persons who, together with such officer, shall sign the inventory and annex thereto an appropriate certificate as to the accuracy of the appraised value of each article.

"Third. To collect the debts due to the decedent in his jurisdiction and pay from the estate the obligations owed there by the decedent.

"Fourth. To sell at auction, after reasonable public notice, unless the amount involved does not justify such expenditure, such part of the estate as shall be of a perishable nature, and after reasonable public notice and notice to next of kin if they can be ascertained by reasonable diligence such further part, if any, as shall be necessary