

maintain, and operate a free highway bridge and approaches thereto across the Monongahela River at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, at or near Star City, West Virginia, 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.

34 Stat. 84.
33 U. S. C. §§ 491-498.

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

Approved March 6, 1946.

[CHAPTER 56]

AN ACT

To revive and reenact the Act entitled "An Act granting the consent of Congress to Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties, New York, or to either of them, or any agency representing said counties, to construct, maintain, and operate a free highway bridge across the Hudson River between the city of Mechanicville and Hemstreet Park in the town of Schaghticoke, New York", approved April 2, 1941.

March 6, 1946
[H. R. 3940]
[Public Law 316]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act approved April 2, 1941, granting the consent of Congress to the counties of Rensselaer and Saratoga, New York, or to either of them, or any agency representing said counties, to construct, maintain, and operate a free highway bridge and approaches thereto across the Hudson River, at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, between the city of Mechanicville and Hemstreet Park in the town of Schaghticoke, New York, at or near River Street in the city of Mechanicville, be, and is hereby, revived and reenacted: *Provided*, That this Act shall be null and void unless the actual construction of the bridge herein referred to be commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date of approval hereof.

Bridge.
Hudson River
55 Stat. 87.

Time limitation.

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

Approved March 6, 1946.

[CHAPTER 57]

AN ACT

To provide credit for past service to substitute employees of the postal service when appointed to regular positions; to extend annual and sick leave benefits to war service indefinite substitute employees; to fix the rate of compensation for temporary substitute rural carriers serving in the place of regular carriers in the armed forces; and for other purposes.

March 6, 1946
[H. R. 4652]
[Public Law 317]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, upon appointment to a regular position in the postal service, any employee who was a substitute in the postal service prior to July 1, 1945, shall receive credit for actual substitute service, including time served as a special-delivery messenger, performed prior to July 1, 1945, computed on the basis of one year for each unit of two thousand four hundred and forty-eight hours, but such credit shall not exceed four years. The credit thus computed shall be added to credit for actual substitute service, including time served as a special-delivery messenger, performed on and after July 1, 1945, computed on the basis of one year for each unit of two thousand and twenty-four hours, but credit for service performed on and after July 1, 1945, shall not exceed one year for each period of twelve months. Upon the appointment of any such employee to a regular position he shall be placed in the salary

Postal service.
Credit for substitute service.

Progression in grade.

grade to which he would have progressed had his original appointment been made to a regular position of grade 1, plus four grades, and the progression shall be computed on the basis of years of substitute service as herein provided. Any fractional part of a year's substitute service performed prior to July 1, 1945, and on and after that date, shall be included with regular service in determining eligibility for promotion to a higher grade following appointment to a regular position: *Provided*, That no substitute shall be appointed to a higher grade of a regular position than the highest grade to which employees may progress through annual promotions: *Provided further*, That upon appointment of a substitute employee to a regular position he shall not be placed in or promoted to a grade higher than the grade to which he would have progressed, including benefits authorized by section 23 of Public Law 134, approved July 6, 1945, had his original appointment been to a regular position of grade 1: *And provided further*, That employees shall not be allowed credit for service performed under temporary or war-service appointments except when such service is continuous to the date of appointment as a classified substitute or regular employee.

Fractional part of year.

Limitation.

59 Stat. 460.
39 U. S. C., Supp.
V, § 873.

Temporary appointments, etc., restriction.

Separation from field service for military duty.

Reinstatements.

Annual and sick leave.

Rural routes, temporary service.

Retroaction.

SEC. 2. Employees who have been separated or shall hereafter be separated from the field service of the Post Office Department for military duty shall be given credit under the provisions of section 1 of this Act for the periods or terms of substitute service immediately preceding their entry into military service and pro rata credit shall be given for the time engaged in military service. Employees who are reinstated to positions in the field service of the Post Office Department may be given credit for the periods or terms of continuous substitute and regular service immediately preceding their separation, but they shall not be placed in a grade higher than the grade to which they would have progressed in continuous service.

SEC. 3. War service indefinite substitute employees in the postal service, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, shall be entitled to the same rights and benefits with respect to annual and sick leave that accrue to classified substitute employees in proportion to the time employed in a pay status.

SEC. 4. A temporary rural carrier serving a rural route during the vacancy created by the induction of the regular carrier into the armed forces of the United States shall be paid for such service at the same rates per mile per annum and the same rate of fixed compensation that would have been paid to the regular carrier, Sundays and holidays included except at the beginning or end of the period of employment.

SEC. 5. The provisions of this Act shall be retroactive to July 1, 1945.

Approved March 6, 1946.

[CHAPTER 58]

AN ACT

To amend section 9 of the Boulder Canyon Project Act, approved December 21, 1928.

March 6, 1946

[H. R. 4932]

[Public Law 318]

Boulder Canyon Project Act, amendment.

Irrigable lands withdrawn from public entry.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 9 of the Boulder Canyon Project Act (45 Stat. 1057, 1063; 43 U. S. C., sec. 617h) is amended to read as follows:

"All lands of the United States found by the Secretary of the Interior to be practicable of irrigation and reclamation by the irrigation works authorized herein shall be withdrawn from public entry. Thereafter, at the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, such