

or equitable defenses, set-offs, or counterclaims including gratuities which the United States may have against any of said tribes or bands.

Counterclaims, etc., admitted.

SEC. 2. That the Court of Claims shall advance the cause or causes upon its docket for hearing, and shall have authority to determine and adjudge all rights and claims, both legal and equitable, of said tribes or bands of Indians, or any of them, and of the United States in the premises, notwithstanding lapse of time or statutes of limitation.

Advancement of cause, etc.

SEC. 3. That suit or suits instituted hereunder shall be begun within five years from the date of the passage of this Act by such tribes or bands of Indians, as parties plaintiff, and the United States as the party defendant. The petition or petitions may be verified by attorney or attorneys employed by such tribes of Indians under contract or contracts approved in accordance with existing law upon information and belief as to the facts therein alleged, and no other verification shall be necessary. Upon final determination of such suit or suits the Court of Claims shall have jurisdiction to fix and determine a reasonable fee, not to exceed 10 per centum of the recovery and in no event shall such fee amount in the aggregate under one attorneyship for each tribe to more than \$25,000, together with all necessary and proper expenses incurred in preparation and prosecution of the suit, to be paid to the attorneys employed by the said tribes or bands of Indians, or any of them, and the same shall be included in the decree and shall be paid out of any sum or sums found to be due said tribes.

Time for filing.

Verification.

Attorneys' fees, etc., by decree of court.

Approved, February 12, 1925.

CHAP. 215.—An Act To validate an agreement between the Secretary of War, acting on behalf of the United States, and the Washington Gas Light Company.

February 12, 1925.  
[S. 2848.]  
[Public, No. 403.]

Whereas Congress has provided for the work of reclaiming and improving the land along the Anacostia River, in the District of Columbia, and made and declared it a part of the park system of the District of Columbia, to be known as Anacostia Park, and it has become necessary in the prosecution of the said work to settle certain questions in dispute between the United States and the Washington Gas Light Company as to the ownership of land and to quiet title thereto: Therefore

District of Columbia.  
Preamble.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the agreement made between the Secretary of War, acting on behalf of the United States, and the Washington Gas Light Company, a corporation, for the purpose of effecting an adjustment and settlement of all the matters at issue between the United States and the said company respecting the title and ownership of certain parcels and lots of land adjacent to the Anacostia River, the terms of which agreement are embodied in a formal instrument on file in the War Department, bearing date of September 8, 1921, and signed by J. M. Wainwright, Assistant Secretary of War, and H. S. Reeside, president of the said Washington Gas Light Company, is hereby approved, and the consent of Congress is hereby given to the carrying out of said agreement in full accordance with the tenor and terms thereof.

Anacostia Park.  
Agreement with Washington Gas Light Company as to title of lands adjacent to, validated.

Approved, February 12, 1925.