

of the United States, an associate justice of the United States to be designated by the Supreme Court of the United States, the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the Senate, the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the House of Representatives, and the Architect of the Capitol. Notwithstanding the expiration of a Congress, any Representative who is a member of the commission, if reelected, shall continue to serve thereon until a successor is selected by the House of Representatives. The Architect of the Capitol shall serve as executive officer of the commission and shall perform such services under this Act as the commission may direct.

Creation and composition of.

Executive officer.

SEC. 2. The commission is authorized to procure, by contract or otherwise, preliminary plans and estimates of costs for the construction, and the furnishing and equipping, of a suitable building (including approaches, connections with the Capitol power plant, and architectural landscape treatment of the grounds), for the accommodation and exclusive use of the Supreme Court of the United States; such building to be erected upon the site heretofore acquired for that purpose, and such building to be so situated, and the exterior thereof to be of such type of architecture and material, as to harmonize with the present buildings of the Capitol group. The amount to be expended in procuring such plans and estimates shall be determined by the commission, but shall be within the limits of appropriations made therefor, and shall be disbursed by the disbursing officer of the Department of the Interior, under the direction of the executive officer of the commission. The commission shall make a report to the Congress on or before March 1, 1929, including a detailed statement of such plans and estimates of costs.

Commission to procure preliminary plans, estimates, etc., for building for the Supreme Court, on acquired site.

Vol. 44, pp. 631, 1254.

Limit of expense.

SEC. 3. There is authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$10,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to carry out the provisions of section 2.

Report by March 1, 1929.
Post, p. 1261.

Sum authorized.
Post, p. 1609.

Approved, December 21, 1928.

CHAP. 45.—Joint Resolution Limiting the operation of sections 198 and 203 of title 18 of the Code of Laws of the United States.

December 21, 1928.
[S. J. Res. 167.]
[Pub. Res., No. 73.]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That nothing in sections 198 or 203 of title 18 of the Code of Laws of the United States (sections 109 and 113, Criminal Code) or any other Act of Congress forbidding any person in the employ of the United States or acting in any official capacity under them from acting as agent or attorney for another before any department or branch of the Government or from receiving pay for so acting shall be deemed to apply to counsel serving under the provisions of S. J. Res. 54, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session, approved February 8, 1924.

Counsel in suits to cancel naval oil leases. Removal of prohibition against employment of, in claims, etc.
Vol. 35, pp. 1107, 1109.
U. S. Code, pp. 474, 475.
Vol. 43, p. 6.

Approved, December 21, 1928.

CHAP. 46.—Joint Resolution For the relief of Porto Rico.

December 21, 1928.
[H. J. Res. 352.]
[Pub. Res., No. 74.]
Porto Rico hurricane. Preamble.

Whereas the island of Porto Rico is suffering from the effects of a violent hurricane of extraordinary intensity, unusual duration, and unexampled violence which visited the island on September 13 and 14, 1928; and

Whereas no part of the island escaped suffering some damage; and

Whereas the total number of people affected by the hurricane was one million four hundred and fifty-four thousand and forty-seven, of whom, according to the report of the American Red Cross, more than one-third, or five hundred and ten thousand one hundred and sixty-one, were absolutely destitute and without food; and

Whereas the coffee and fruit crops were almost totally destroyed, and the coffee plantations so injured that it will be at least five years before they can be restored to normal conditions; and

Whereas a very large part of the shade trees which are essential for the successful functioning of a coffee plantation were destroyed and more than five years will be required for their replacement or recovery; and

Whereas more than one hundred and forty thousand, or about one-third, of the trees in the coconut plantations were destroyed and it will be at least seven years before the new trees to be planted in their place will be bearing fruit; and

Whereas the damage to all the insular industries has been so great as to make it impossible for the insular government to give adequate relief in the emergency: Therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby created a commission, to be known as The Porto Rican Hurricane Relief Commission (hereinafter referred to as the commission), and to consist of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of Agriculture, of whom the Secretary of War shall be the chairman. It shall be the duty of the commission to assist in the rehabilitation of agriculture in the Island of Porto Rico, particularly on the coffee plantations and on the coconut plantations, to encourage a more general planting of food crops needed by laborers on the plantations, especially of root crops, to aid in the repair and restoration of schools and roads, and to assist in providing employment for unemployed and destitute laborers. The commissioners shall receive no compensation for their services under this resolution.

SEC. 2. (a) The commission is authorized (1) without regard to the civil service laws to appoint and, without regard to the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, to fix the compensation of a secretary and such clerical and other assistants; and (2) to make such expenditures (including expenditures for personal services and rent at the seat of government and elsewhere) as may be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this resolution. The commission may, to the extent deemed advisable by it, utilize the facilities and the clerical and other personnel of the Department of the Treasury, the Department of War, and the Department of Agriculture, and may request and accept the cooperation of the insular and municipal governments of Porto Rico in carrying out the provisions of this resolution.

(b) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$50,000 for administrative expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this resolution.

SEC. 3. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this resolution the commission shall have power to make loans to any individual coffee planter, coconut planter, fruit grower, or other agriculturist in the island of Porto Rico in such amounts and upon such terms and conditions as the commission shall by regulation prescribe, including an agreement by the borrowers to use the loan for the purposes specified by the commission; except that no such loan shall be made for a period of more than ten years or in an amount in excess of \$25,000 to any one individual. The rate of interest upon each such loan beginning with the fourth year shall

Porto Rican Hurricane Relief Commission.

Creation and composition of.

To assist the rehabilitation of agriculture, etc., on the island.

Personnel authorized.

Expenses.

Cooperation of departments, etc., may be utilized.

Sum for administrative expenses.
Post, p. 1609.

Loans to agriculturists.

Interest, etc.

be 5 per centum per annum, but the commission may, in its discretion, defer the payment of interest upon any such loan for such a period of time as the commission shall deem necessary. All such loans shall be made by the commission itself or through such agencies as the commission shall designate. For carrying out the purposes of this section there is hereby authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$6,000,000, of which \$3,000,000 shall be made immediately available, \$2,000,000 shall be made available on January 1, 1930, and \$1,000,000 shall be made available on January 1, 1931. All money received during a period of five years from the date of the approval of this joint resolution as repayment of any loan or interest on loan made under the provisions of this joint resolution shall be held by said commission as a revolving fund, which may be loaned on applications for the purposes and upon the terms and conditions herein provided, and all money received thereafter as payments of interest and principal on all loans made under the provisions of this joint resolution shall be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

Sum authorized for loans.
Post, p. 1609.

Repayments a revolving fund for five years.

Covered into the Treasury thereafter.

SEC. 4. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$2,000,000 to be used for the rebuilding and repair of school-houses damaged or destroyed by the hurricane in the small towns and rural districts of Porto Rico and for the employment of labor and the purchase of materials for repairing insular and rural municipal roads. The sum hereby authorized to be appropriated shall be expended in such manner and in such amounts as the commission shall approve.

Sum authorized for rebuilding school-houses, roads, etc.
Post, p. 1609.

SEC. 5. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$100,000 to be expended by the commission in the purchase and distribution within the devastated area of Porto Rico of seeds and seedlings, particularly of food and root crops, in such manner as it deems advisable.

Sum authorized to buy and distribute seeds, etc.
Post, p. 1609.

SEC. 6. The commission shall make an annual report to Congress at the beginning of each regular session, giving a complete account of its activities in carrying out the provisions of this resolution.

Annual reports to Congress.

Approved, December 21, 1928.

CHAP. 47.—An Act To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue patents for lands held under color of title.

December 22, 1928.
[S. 3776.]
[Public, No. 645.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever it shall be shown to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Interior that a tract of public land, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, has been held in good faith and in peaceful, adverse, possession by a citizen of the United States, his ancestors or grantors, for more than twenty years under claim or color of title, and that valuable improvements have been placed on such land, or some part thereof has been reduced to cultivation, the Secretary may, in his discretion, upon the payment of not less than \$1.25 per acre, cause a patent to issue for such land to any such citizen: *Provided*, That where the area so held is in excess of one hundred and sixty acres the Secretary may determine what particular subdivisions, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, may be patented hereunder: *Provided further*, That coal and all other minerals contained therein are hereby reserved to the United States; that said coal and other minerals shall be subject to sale or disposal by the United States under applicable leasing and mineral land laws, and permittees, lessees, or grantees of the United States shall have the right to enter upon said lands for the purpose of prospecting for and mining such deposits:

Public lands.
Patent for 160 acres of, to citizen holder for 20 years under color of title.

Provisos.
Determination, if area in excess.

Minerals reserved, etc.