

authorized and directed to sell the said land, and to execute the proper conveyances to Pinellas County, State of Florida, with a reservation to the United States of all minerals in said lands and the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the same under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. The consideration for such conveyance shall be—

(a) with respect to that portion of said lands which was originally purchased by said county from the Treasury Department in 1938 and thereafter was reconveyed by it to the War Department in 1941, the sum received by said county from the War Department in consideration for such reconveyance; and

(b) with respect to the remainder of said lands, 50 per centum of the reasonable appraised value thereof, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

Use of land.

SEC. 2. The property acquired pursuant to section 1 shall be retained by the said Pinellas County and be used by it for such purposes as it shall deem to be in the public interest or be leased by it from time to time, in whole or in part or parts, to such persons and for such purposes as it shall deem to be in the public interest and upon such terms and conditions as it shall fix and always to be subject to regulation by said county whether leased or not leased but never to be otherwise disposed of or conveyed by it: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall prevent the said county from conveying said property back to the Federal Government or to the State of Florida or any agency thereof.

Approved June 17, 1948.

[CHAPTER 496]

AN ACT

To revise the method of issuing patents for public lands.

June 17, 1948

[H. R. 3628]

[Public Law 667]

Patents for public lands.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That all patents for public lands shall be issued and signed by the Secretary of the Interior in the name of the United States: *Provided*, That the Secretary may delegate his authority under this Act to officers or employees of the Department of the Interior, but notice of any such delegation shall be given by publication in the Federal Register.

Repeals.

SEC. 2. The following are hereby repealed:

(a) Section 450, Revised Statutes (43 U. S. C., sec. 8).

(b) Section 451, Revised Statutes (43 U. S. C., sec. 9).

(c) Section 458, Revised Statutes (43 U. S. C., sec. 15).

(d) That part of the Act of June 19, 1878 (20 Stat. 178, 183), which reads as follows: "And the duties prescribed by section of the Revised Statutes numbered four hundred and fifty shall devolve upon and be discharged by one of the executive clerks, to be designated by the President for that purpose."

Approved June 17, 1948.

[CHAPTER 497]

AN ACT

To amend certain provisions of law relating to the naval service so as to authorize the delegation to the Secretary of the Navy of certain discretionary powers vested in the President of the United States.

June 17, 1948

[H. R. 4032]

[Public Law 668]

Navy.  
Delegation of certain powers to Secretary of Navy.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the following Acts or parts of Acts are hereby amended by striking out the word "President", wherever it appears, and substituting in lieu thereof the words "Secretary of the Navy":

- (a) Section 1443, Revised Statutes (34 U. S. C. 381);  
 (b) Section 1453, Revised Statutes (34 U. S. C. 417);  
 (c) Section 1454, Revised Statutes (34 U. S. C. 418);  
 (d) The last sentence of the second proviso of the second paragraph under the heading "Pay of the Navy" of the Act of May 13, 1908, as it appears on page 128, volume 35, of the Statutes at Large (34 U. S. C. 383).

SEC. 2. Section 2 of the Act of March 4, 1925 (43 Stat. 1270; 34 U. S. C. 1017), is hereby amended by changing the final period to a colon and adding the following: "Provided further, That all authority hereby vested in the President shall hereafter be exercised by the Secretary of the Navy with respect to commissioned officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel of the Navy and Marine Corps."

Approved June 17, 1948.

[CHAPTER 500]

AN ACT

To provide for the carrying of mail on star routes, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 3951 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (U. S. C., 1940 edition, title 39, sec. 434), is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"The Postmaster General may, in his discretion and in the interest of the postal service, notwithstanding the provisions of section 3949 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (U. S. C., 1940 edition, title 39, sec. 429), by mutual agreement with the holder of any star-route contract, renew such contract at the rate prevailing at the end of the contract term, for additional terms of four years with such bond as may be required by the Postmaster General. Any such contract may be terminated at the end of any four-year term at the option of the Postmaster General or the contractor or terminated at any time by operation of any existing law.

"The Postmaster General may, in his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe, with the consent of the contractor, and without regard to the provisions of sections 3958 and 3961 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (U. S. C., 1940 edition, title 39, secs. 438 and 441), readjust the compensation of a star-route contractor for increased or decreased costs occasioned by changed conditions occurring during the contract term which could not reasonably have been anticipated at the time of making his original proposal or executing his bond for a renewed contract as provided herein."

Approved June 19, 1948.

[CHAPTER 501]

AN ACT

To further amend the thirteenth paragraph of section 127a of the National Defense Act, as amended.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the thirteenth paragraph of section 127a of the National Defense Act, as amended (10 U. S. C., Supp. V, 535), is further amended to read as follows:

"The Secretary of the Army is hereby authorized to detail personnel of the Army of the United States, without regard to component, as students at such technical, professional, and other civilian educational institutions, or as students, observers, or investigators at such industrial plants, hospitals, and other places as shall be best suited to enable

June 19, 1948

[S. 263]

[Public Law 669]

Star mail routes.

Renewal of contract.

Termination.

Readjustment of compensation.

39 U. S. C. §§ 438, 441.

June 19, 1948

[S. 295]

[Public Law 670]

National Defense Act, amendment.  
41 Stat. 786.  
10 U. S. C. § 535.

Detail of personnel as students, etc.