

Railroad connections, highways, etc.

(b) Whether such water terminals are connected by a belt or spur line of railroad with all the railroads serving the same territory or municipality, and whether such connecting railroad is owned by the public and the conditions upon which the same may be used, and also whether there is an interchange of traffic between the water carriers and the railroad or railroads as to such traffic which is carried partly by rail and partly by water to its destination, and also whether improved and adequate highways have been constructed connecting such water terminal with the other lines of highways.

Necessity for, where there are none.

(c) If no water terminals have been constructed by the municipality or other existing public agency there shall be included in his report an expression of opinion in general terms as to the necessity, number, and appropriate location of such a terminal or terminals.

Investigation, plans, etc., of the general subject.

(d) An investigation of the general subject of water terminals, with descriptions and general plans of terminals of appropriate types and construction for the harbors and waterways of the United States suitable for various commercial purposes and adapted to the varying conditions of tides, floods, and other physical characteristics.

Existing contracts. Modification, etc., if unjust on account of increased cost owing to the war.

SEC. 8. That if the Secretary of War shall determine that any of the contracts for work of river and harbor improvements entered into but not completed prior to April sixth, nineteen hundred and seventeen, the date of the entrance of the United States into the war with Germany, have become inequitable and unjust on account of increased costs of materials and labor and other unforeseen conditions arising out of the war, he is hereby authorized, in his discretion and with the consent of the contractors, to modify and readjust the terms of said contracts in such manner as he may deem equitable and just: *Provided*, That such modifications and readjustments shall apply only to work under said contracts remaining to be done hereafter and shall not include any relief for work performed heretofore under said contracts, and any such sum as may be necessary to provide for the increased cost of the contracts due to said modifications and readjustments, not exceeding the sum of \$2,000,000, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated: *Provided further*, That as a condition of any such contract being so modified, the Secretary of War shall have the right, at the end of any fiscal year, until the contract is completed, to make such further modifications as in his judgment shall be advantageous to the United States and just to the contractor.

Proviso. Applicable to work hereafter.

Appropriation for readjusting, etc.

Further modifications may be made.

Per diem allowance for travel expenses away from post.

SEC. 9. That hereafter when the expenses of persons engaged in field work or traveling on official business outside of the District of Columbia and away from their designated posts of duty are chargeable to appropriations of the Engineer Department, a per diem of not exceeding \$4 may be allowed in lieu of subsistence when not otherwise fixed by law.

Approved, July 18, 1918.

July 18, 1918.
[H. R. 10852.]
[Public, No. 201.]

CHAP. 156.—An Act To provide for the appointment of a commission to standardize screw threads.

Screw threads standardization.
Commission created for.
Composition.
Post, p. 1291.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a commission is hereby created, to be known as the Commission for the Standardization of Screw Threads, hereinafter referred to as the commission, which shall be composed of nine commissioners, one of whom shall be the Director of the Bureau of Standards, who shall be chairman of the commission; two commissioned officers of the Army, to be appointed by the Secretary of War; two commissioned officers of the Navy, to be appointed by the Secretary of the Navy; and four

to be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, two of whom shall be chosen from nominations made by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and two from nominations made by the Society of Automotive Engineers.

SEC. 2. That it shall be the duty of said commission to ascertain and establish standards for screw threads, which shall be submitted to the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of Commerce for their acceptance and approval. Such standards, when thus accepted and approved, shall be adopted and used in the several manufacturing plants under the control of the War and Navy Departments, and, so far as practicable, in all specifications for screw threads in proposals for manufactured articles, parts, or materials to be used under the direction of these departments.

Standard adopted to be used for Army and Navy plants, etc.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of Commerce shall promulgate such standards for use by the public and cause the same to be published as a public document.

Publication officially.

SEC. 4. That the commission shall serve without compensation, but nothing herein shall be held to affect the pay of the commissioners appointed from the Army and Navy or of the Director of the Bureau of Standards.

No pay for services.

SEC. 5. That the commission may adopt rules and regulations in regard to its procedure and the conduct of its business.

Procedure.

SEC. 6. That the commission shall cease and terminate at the end of six months from the date of its appointment.

Termination of commission.

Approved, July 18, 1918.

CHAP. 157.—An Act To confer on the President power to prescribe charter rates and freight rates and to requisition vessels, and for other purposes.

July 18, 1918.
[H. R. 12099.]

[Public, No. 202.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when used in this Act—

Shipping charters, etc.
Terms construed, "United States."

(a) The term "United States" includes any State, Territory, or District of the United States, the insular possessions, the Canal Zone, and all lands or waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(b) The term "person" includes corporations, partnerships, associations, and States, municipalities, and other subdivisions thereof.

"Person."

(c) The term "charter" means any agreement, contract, lease, or commitment by which the possession or services of a vessel are secured for a period of time, or for one or more voyages, whether or not a demise of the vessel.

"Charter."

SEC. 2. That the President may exercise the power and authority hereby vested in him through such agency or agencies as he shall determine from time to time.

Powers vested in the President may be delegated.

SEC. 3. That all power and authority hereby vested in the President or by him delegated and all restrictions imposed in this Act shall cease upon the proclamation of the final treaty of peace between the United States and the Imperial German Government: *Provided*, That if, in the judgment of the President, the tonnage shortage at such time is so severe that national interests of the United States are jeopardized, he may, by proclamation, extend the provisions of this Act for a further period of not exceeding nine months.

Authority, etc., to cease at end of war.

SEC. 4. That the powers herein conferred shall be without prejudice to any power heretofore conferred on the President, or by him delegated.

Proviso.
Extension allowed.

SEC. 5. That the President may, by proclamation, require that vessels of the United States of any specified class or description, or in any specified trade or trades, shall not be chartered unless the instrument in which such charter is embodied, and the rates, terms,

No other power restricted.

Charters of specified vessels, etc., must be approved.
Post, p. 1810.