

the District of Columbia and in the field such clerical, legal, engineering, artistic, and expert services as it may deem advisable, including the payment of per diem in lieu of subsistence for employees engaged in field work or traveling on official business, rent of offices in the District of Columbia and in the field, and the purchase of books, maps, and office equipment.

River and harbor projects not interfered with, etc.

Nothing herein contained shall be construed to delay, prevent, or interfere with the completion of any survey, investigation, project, or work herein or heretofore or hereafter adopted or authorized upon or for the improvement of any of the rivers or harbors of the United States or with legislative action upon reports heretofore or hereafter presented.

Approved, August 8, 1917.

August 9, 1917.
[S. 1816.]

[Public, No. 38.]

Interstate Commerce Commission.

CHAP. 50.—An Act To amend the Act to regulate commerce, as amended, 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 twenty-four of an Act entitled "An Act to regulate commerce," approved February fourth, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, as amended, be further amended to read as follows:

Membership enlarged.
Vol. 34, p. 595, amended.

"SEC. 24. That the Interstate Commerce Commission is hereby enlarged so as to consist of nine members, with terms of seven years, and each shall receive \$10,000 compensation annually. The qualifications of the members and the manner of the payment of their salaries shall be as already provided by law. Such enlargement of the commission shall be accomplished through appointment by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, of two additional Interstate Commerce Commissioners, one for a term expiring December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and twenty-one, and one for a term expiring December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and twenty-two. The terms of the present commissioners, or of any successor appointed to fill a vacancy caused by the death or resignation of any of the present commissioners, shall expire as heretofore provided by law. Their successors and the successors of the additional commissioners herein provided for shall be appointed for the full term of seven years, except that any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall be appointed only for the unexpired term of the commissioner whom he shall succeed. Not more than five commissioners shall be appointed from the same political party."

Appointment of new members.

Expiration of terms.

Successors to serve seven years.

Political selection.

SEC. 2. That section seventeen of said Act, as amended, be further amended to read as follows:

Conduct of proceedings, etc.
Vol. 25, p. 861, amended.

"SEC. 17. That the commission may conduct its proceedings in such manner as will best conduce to the proper dispatch of business and to the ends of justice. The commission shall have an official seal, which shall be judicially noticed. Any member of the commission may administer oaths and affirmations and sign subpoenas. A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except as may be otherwise herein provided, but no commissioner shall participate in any hearing or proceeding in which he has any pecuniary interest. The commission may, from time to time, make or amend such general rules or orders as may be requisite for the order and regulation of proceedings before it, or before any division of the commission, including forms of notices and the service thereof, which shall conform, as nearly as may be, to those in use in the courts of the United States. Any party may appear before the commission or any division thereof and be heard in person or by attorney. Every vote and official act of the commission, or of any

Quorum.

General rules, orders, etc.

Appearances, etc.

division thereof, shall be entered of record, and its proceedings shall be public upon the request of any party interested.

“The commission is hereby authorized by its order to divide the members thereof into as many divisions as it may deem necessary, which may be changed from time to time. Such divisions shall be denominated, respectively, division one, division two, and so forth. Any commissioner may be assigned to and may serve upon such division or divisions as the commission may direct, and the senior in service of the commissioners constituting any of said divisions shall act as chairman thereof. In case of vacancy in any division, or of absence or inability to serve thereon of any commissioner thereto assigned, the chairman of the commission, or any commissioner designated by him for that purpose, may temporarily serve on said division until the commission shall otherwise order.

Divisions of Commission authorized.

Assignment of members thereto.

Temporary service.

“The commission may by order direct that any of its work, business, or functions arising under this Act, or under any Act amendatory thereof, or supplemental thereto, or under any amendment which may be made to any of said Acts, or under any other Act or joint resolution which has been or may hereafter be approved, or in respect of any matter which has been or may be referred to the commission by Congress or by either branch thereof, be assigned or referred to any of said divisions for action thereon, and may by order at any time amend, modify, supplement, or rescind any such direction. All such orders shall take effect forthwith and remain in effect until otherwise ordered by the commission.

Assignment of work to divisions.

“In conformity with and subject to the order or orders of the commission in the premises, each division so constituted shall have power and authority by a majority thereof to hear and determine, order, certify, report, or otherwise act as to any of said work, business, or functions so assigned or referred to it for action by the commission, and in respect thereof the division shall have all the jurisdiction and powers now or then conferred by law upon the commission, and be subject to the same duties and obligations. Any order, decision, or report made or other action taken by any of said divisions in respect of any matters so assigned or referred to it shall have the same force and effect, and may be made, evidenced, and enforced in the same manner as if made, or taken by the commission, subject to rehearing by the commission, as provided in section sixteen—a hereof for rehearing cases decided by the commission. The secretary and seal of the commission shall be the secretary and seal of each division thereof.

Full jurisdiction conferred on divisions.

Enforcement of orders.

Rehearings.
Vol. 34, p. 592.

“In all proceedings before any such divisions relating to the reasonableness of rates or to alleged discriminations not less than three members shall participate in the consideration and decision; and in all proceedings relating to the valuation of railway property under the Act entitled ‘An Act to amend an Act entitled “An Act to regulate commerce,” approved February fourth, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, and all Acts amendatory thereof, by providing for a valuation of the several classes of property of carriers subject thereto and securing information concerning their stocks, bonds, and other securities,’ approved March first, nineteen hundred and thirteen, not less than five members shall participate in the consideration and decision.

Number required.
Rate, etc., questions.

Physical valuation proceedings.
Vol. 37, p. 701.

“The salary of the secretary of the commission shall be \$5,000 per annum.

Salary of secretary.

“Nothing in this section contained, or done pursuant thereto, shall be deemed to divest the commission of any of its powers.”

Powers of Commission not affected.

SEC. 3. So much of section eighteen of the Act to regulate commerce as fixes the salary of the secretary of the commission is hereby repealed.

Secretary.
Former pay repealed.
Vol. 25, p. 861,
amended.

New rates, etc.
Vol. 36, p. 552,
amended.

Restriction on filing
increased rates, etc.

Approval by Com-
mission.

SEC. 4. That paragraph two, section fifteen, of the Act to regulate commerce approved February fourth, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, as amended, be further amended by adding the following: "Provided further, until January first, nineteen hundred and twenty, no increased rate, fare, charge, or classification shall be filed except after approval thereof has been secured from the commission. Such approval may, in the discretion of the commission, be given without formal hearing, and in such case shall not affect any subsequent proceeding relative to such rate, fare, charge, or classification."

Approved, August 9, 1917.

August 19, 1917.
[S. 2356.]

[Public, No. 39.]

CHAP. 51.—An Act To amend the Act to regulate commerce, as amended, and for other purposes.

Interstate commerce
regulations.
Vol. 36, p. 547,
amended.

Punishment for ob-
structing movement of
carriers, etc., during
present war.

Use of armed forces
to prevent, etc.

Proviso.
Labor provisions not
changed.
Vol. 38, pp. 731, 738.

Preferential transporta-
tion of national de-
fense commodities.

Officials to issue
orders, etc.

Compensation, ex-
penses, etc.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section one of the act entitled "An Act to regulate commerce," approved February fourth, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, as heretofore amended, be further amended by adding thereto the following:

"That on and after the approval of this Act any person or persons who shall, during the war in which the United States is now engaged, knowingly and willfully, by physical force or intimidation or by threats of physical force obstruct or retard, or aid in obstructing or retarding, the orderly conduct or movement in the United States of interstate or foreign commerce, or the orderly make-up or movement or disposition of any train, or the movement or disposition of any locomotive, car, or other vehicle on any railroad or elsewhere in the United States engaged in interstate or foreign commerce shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and for every such offense shall be punishable by a fine of not exceeding \$100 or by imprisonment for not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment; and the President of the United States is hereby authorized, whenever in his judgment the public interest requires, to employ the armed forces of the United States to prevent any such obstruction or retardation of the passage of the mail, or of the orderly conduct or movement of interstate or foreign commerce in any part of the United States, or of any train, locomotive, car, or other vehicle upon any railroad or elsewhere in the United States engaged in interstate or foreign commerce: *Provided,* That nothing in this section shall be construed to repeal, modify, or affect either section six or section twenty of an Act entitled 'An Act to supplement existing laws against unlawful restraints and monopolies, and for other purposes,' approved October fifteenth, nineteen hundred and fourteen.

"That during the continuance of the war in which the United States is now engaged the President is authorized, if he finds it necessary for the national defense and security, to direct that such traffic or such shipments of commodities as, in his judgment, may be essential to the national defense and security shall have preference or priority in transportation by any common carrier by railroad, water, or otherwise. He may give these directions at and for such times as he may determine, and may modify, change, suspend, or annul them, and for any such purpose he is hereby authorized to issue orders direct, or through such person or persons as he may designate for the purpose or through the Interstate Commerce Commission. Officials of the United States, when so designated, shall receive no compensation for their services rendered hereunder. Persons not in the employ of the United States so designated shall receive such compensation as the President may fix. Suitable offices may be