

Technical, etc., services authorized.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby further authorized, without regard to civil-service laws, rules, or regulations, to obtain such special architectural or other expert technical services as he may deem necessary and specially order in writing, and to pay for such services such prices or rates of compensation as he may consider just and reasonable from the appropriation for said building, any statute to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved, September 27, 1917.

September 28, 1917.
[H. R. 5335.]

[Public, No. 46.]

CHAP. 59.—An Act To extend the time for constructing a bridge across the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River near Warfield, Kentucky, and Kermit, West Virginia, authorized by an Act approved January twenty-eighth, nineteen hundred and sixteen.

Tug Fork of Big Sandy River, Ky. and W. Va.
Time extended for bridging, by Interstate Bridge Company.
Vol. 39, p. 7 amended.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the times for commencing and completing the construction of a bridge authorized by the Act of Congress approved January twenty-eighth, nineteen hundred and sixteen, to be built across the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River near Warfield, Kentucky, and Kermit, West Virginia, are hereby extended to one year and three years, respectively, from the twenty-eighth day of January, nineteen hundred and seventeen.

Amendment.

SEC. 2. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, September 28, 1917.

October 1, 1917.
[H. R. 5431.]

[Public, No. 47.]

CHAP. 60.—An Act To authorize the construction, maintenance, and operation of a bridge across the Saline River, at or near Suttons Ferry, Arkansas.

Saline River, Bradley County, Ark., may bridge, Suttons Ferry.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the county of Bradley, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Arkansas, its successors and assigns, be, and they are hereby, authorized to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Saline River, at or near Suttons Ferry in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section fifteen, township thirteen south, range nine west, of the fifth principal meridian on the Warren and Monticello Road, at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters," approved March twenty-third, nineteen hundred and six.

Construction.
Vol. 34, p. 84.

Amendment.

SEC. 2. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, October 1, 1917

October 1, 1917.
[S. 2705.]

[Public, No. 48.]
Aircraft Board.
Created for development of air service.

CHAP. 61.—An Act To create the Aircraft Board and provide for its maintenance.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of expanding and coordinating the industrial activities relating to aircraft, or parts of aircraft, produced for any purpose in the United States, and to facilitate generally the development of air service, a board is hereby created, to be known as the Aircraft Board, hereinafter referred to as the board.

Composition.

SEC. 2. That the board shall number not more than nine in all, and shall include a civilian chairman, the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, and two other officers of the Army, to be appointed by the

Secretary of War; the Chief Constructor of the Navy and two other officers of the Navy, to be appointed by the Secretary of the Navy; and two additional civilian members. The chairman and civilian members shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

SEC. 3. That said board and tenure of office of the members thereof shall continue during the pleasure of the President, but not longer than six months after the present war. The civilian members of the board shall serve without compensation.

SEC. 4. That the board is hereby empowered, under the direction and control of and as authorized by the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, respectively, on behalf of the Departments of War and Navy, to supervise and direct, in accordance with the requirements prescribed or approved by the respective departments, the purchase, production, and manufacture of aircraft, engines, and all ordnance and instruments used in connection therewith, and accessories and materials therefor, including the purchase, lease, acquisition, or construction of plants for the manufacture of aircraft, engines, and accessories: *Provided*, That the board may make recommendations as to contracts and their distribution in connection with the foregoing, but every contract shall be made by the already constituted authorities of the respective departments.

SEC. 5. That the board is also empowered to employ, either in the District of Columbia or elsewhere, such clerks and other employees as may be necessary to the conduct of its business, including such technical experts and advisers as may be found necessary, and to fix their salaries. Such salaries shall conform to those usually paid by the Government for similar service: *Provided*, That by unanimous approval of the board higher compensation may be paid to technical experts and advisers. The board may rent suitable offices in the District of Columbia or elsewhere, purchase necessary office equipment and supplies, including scientific publications and printing, and may incur necessary administrative and contingent expenses, and for all of the expenses enumerated in this paragraph there shall be allotted by the Chief Signal Officer of the Army for the fiscal year nineteen hundred and seventeen and nineteen hundred and eighteen the sum of \$100,000, or so much thereof as shall be necessary, from any appropriation now existing for or hereinafter made to the Signal Corps of the Army, and such appropriation is hereby made available for these purposes: *Provided further*, That except upon the joint and concurrent approval of the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy there shall not be established or maintained under the board any office or organization duplicating or replacing, in whole or in part, any office or organization now existing that can be properly established or maintained by appropriations made for or available for the military or naval services: *Provided further*, That a report shall be made to Congress on the first day of each regular session of the salaries paid from this appropriation to clerks and employees by grades, and the number in each such grade.

Approved, October 1, 1917.

CHAP. 62.—An Act To authorize exploration for and disposition of potassium.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, to issue to any applicant who is a citizen of the United States, an association of such citizens, or a corporation organized under the laws of any State or Territory

Appointment of civilian members.

Tenure of office.

Civilians to serve without pay.

Supervision of purchase, etc., of aircraft, construction plants, etc., by.

Provided. Recommendations as to contracts by.

Employees, experts, etc., authorized.

Salaries.

Provided. Pay of experts.

Administrative and contingent expenses allowed.

Payment from Signal Service appropriations.

Duplication of present work restricted.

Report to Congress.

October 2, 1917.
[S. 2156.]

[Public, No. 49.]

Potassium deposits. Permits authorized to prospect for, on public lands.