

stretchers, and Red Cross flags and poles belonging to the Government of the United States as in his judgment may be spared and are not in use by the Government at the time of the inauguration: *And provided further*, That the inaugural committee shall indemnify the Government for any loss or damage to such hospital tents and appliances, as aforesaid, not necessarily incident to such use.

Indemnity for loss or damage.

SEC. 4. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia and the Administrator of the Federal Works Agency be, and they are hereby, authorized to permit telegraph, telephone, radio-broadcasting and television companies to extend overhead wires to such points along the line of parade as shall be deemed by the chief marshal convenient for use in connection with the parade and other inaugural purposes, the said wires to be taken down within ten days after the conclusion of the ceremonies.

Telegraph, telephone, radio, and television wires.

Approved June 3, 1948.

[CHAPTER 379]

AN ACT

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, and the Potassium Act of February 7, 1927, in order to promote the development of certain minerals on the public domain; and for other purposes.

June 3, 1948  
[S. 1006]  
[Public Law 576]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act to promote the mining of coal, phosphate, oil, oil shale, gas, and sodium on the public domain", approved February 25, 1920, as amended (41 Stat. 438, 30 U. S. C., secs. 201 and 202), is amended to read as follows:

Mineral Leasing Act, amendments.

"Sec. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to divide any of the coal lands or the deposits of coal, classified and unclassified, owned by the United States, outside of the Territory of Alaska, into leasing tracts of forty acres each, or multiples thereof, and in such form as, in his opinion, will permit the most economical mining of the coal in such tracts, but in no case exceeding two thousand five hundred and sixty acres in any one leasing tract, and thereafter he shall, in his discretion, upon the request of any qualified applicant or on his own motion, from time to time, offer such lands or deposits of coal for leasing, and shall award leases thereon by competitive bidding or by such other methods as he may by general regulations adopt, to any qualified applicant. He is hereby authorized, in awarding leases for coal lands improved and occupied or claimed in good faith, prior to February 25, 1920, to consider and recognize equitable rights of such occupants or claimants. No competitive lease of coal shall be approved or issued until after the notice of the proposed offering for lease has been given in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the lands are situated in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

Division into leasing tracts.

Offer to qualified applicants.

Rights of occupants or claimants.

Notice.

"(b) Where prospecting or exploratory work is necessary to determine the existence or workability of coal deposits in any unclaimed, undeveloped area, the Secretary of the Interior may issue, to applicants qualified under this Act, prospecting permits for a term of two years, for not exceeding two thousand five hundred and sixty acres; and if within said period of two years thereafter the permittee shows to the Secretary that the land contains coal in commercial quantities, the permittee shall be entitled to a lease under this Act for all or part of the land in his permit.

Prospecting permits.

"Any coal prospecting permit issued under this section may be extended by the Secretary for a period of two years, if he shall find that the permittee has been unable, with the exercise of reasonable

Extension of permit.

diligence, to determine the existence or workability of coal deposits in the area covered by the permit and desires to prosecute further prospecting or exploration, or for other reasons in the opinion of the Secretary warranting such extension.

Limitation on lease  
to railroads.

“(c) No company or corporation operating a common-carrier railroad shall be given or hold a permit or lease under the provisions of this Act for any coal deposits except for its own use for railroad purposes; and such limitations of use shall be expressed in all permits and leases issued to such companies or corporations; and no such company or corporation shall receive or hold under permit or lease more than ten thousand two hundred and forty acres in the aggregate nor more than one permit or lease for each two hundred miles of its railroad lines served or to be served from such coal deposits exclusive of spurs or switches and exclusive of branch lines built to connect the leased coal with the railroad, and also exclusive of parts of the railroad operated mainly by power produced otherwise than by steam.

Main or branch  
lines.

“Nothing in this section shall preclude such a railroad of less than two hundred miles in length from securing one permit or lease thereunder but no railroad shall hold a permit or lease for lands in any State in which it does not operate main or branch lines.”

SEC. 2. Section 9 of the Act (41 Stat. 440, 30 U. S. C., sec. 211) is amended to read as follows:

Phosphate deposits.

“SEC. 9. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to lease to any applicant qualified under this Act, through advertisement, competitive bidding, or such other methods as he may by general regulations adopt, any phosphate deposits of the United States, and lands containing such deposits, including associated and related minerals, when in his judgment the public interest will be best served thereby. The lands shall be leased under such terms and conditions as are herein specified, in units reasonably compact in form of not to exceed two thousand five hundred and sixty acres.”

SEC. 3. Section 10 of the Act (41 Stat. 440, 30 U. S. C., sec. 212) is amended to read as follows:

Description of leased  
lands.  
Royalties.

“SEC. 10. Each lease shall describe the leased lands by the legal subdivisions of the public-land surveys. All leases shall be conditioned upon the payment to the United States of such royalties as may be specified in the lease, which shall be fixed by the Secretary of the Interior in advance of offering the same, at not less than 5 per centum of the gross value of the output of phosphates or phosphate rock and associated or related minerals. Royalties shall be due and payable as specified in the lease either monthly or quarterly on the last day of the month next following the month or quarter in which the minerals are sold or removed from the leased land. Each lease shall provide for the payment of a rental payable at the date of the lease and annually thereafter which shall be not less than 25 cents per acre for the first year, 50 cents per acre for the second and third years, respectively, and \$1 per acre for each year thereafter, during the continuance of the lease. The rental paid for any year shall be credited against the royalties for that year. Leases shall be for a term of twenty years and so long thereafter as the lessee complies with the terms and conditions of the lease and upon the further condition that at the end of each twenty-year period succeeding the date of the lease such reasonable readjustment of the terms and conditions thereof may be made therein as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior unless otherwise provided by law at the expiration of such periods. Leases shall be conditioned upon a minimum annual production or the payment of a minimum royalty in lieu thereof, except when production is interrupted by strikes, the elements, or casualties not attributable to the lessee. The Secretary of the Interior may

Annual rental.

Period of lease.

Condition.

Suspension of opera-  
tions.

permit suspension of operations under any such leases when marketing conditions are such that the leases cannot be operated except at a loss."

SEC. 4. Section 11 of the Act (41 Stat. 440, 30 U. S. C., sec. 213) is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 11. Any lease to develop and extract phosphates, phosphate rock, and associated or related minerals under the provisions of sections 9 to 12, inclusive, of this Act shall provide that the lessee may use so much of any deposit of silica or limestone or other rock situated on any public lands embraced in the lease as may be utilized in the processing or refining of the phosphates, phosphate rock, and associated or related minerals mined from the leased lands or from other lands upon payments of such royalty as may be determined by the Secretary of the Interior, which royalty may be stated in the lease or, as to the leases already issued, may be provided for in an attachment to the lease to be duly executed by the lessor and the lessee."

SEC. 5. Section 12 of the Act (41 Stat. 441, 30 U. S. C., sec. 214) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 12. The holder of any lease issued under the provisions of sections 9 to 12, inclusive, of this Act shall have the right to use so much of the surface of unappropriated and unentered public lands not a part of his lease, not exceeding eighty acres in area, as may be determined by the Secretary to be necessary or convenient for the extraction, treatment, and removal of the mineral deposits, but this provision shall not be applicable to national forest lands."

SEC. 6. The first sentence of section 27 of such Act, as amended (41 Stat. 448, 30 U. S. C., sec. 184), is amended to read as follows:

"No person, association, or corporation, except as herein provided, shall take or hold coal or sodium leases or permits during the life of such lease in any one State, exceeding in the aggregate acreage five thousand one hundred and twenty acres for each of said minerals: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Interior may, in his discretion where it is necessary in order to secure the economic mining of sodium compounds leasable under this Act, permit a person, association, or corporation to take or hold sodium leases or permits for up to fifteen thousand three hundred and sixty acres in any one State. No person, association, or corporation, except as herein provided, shall take or hold at one time oil or gas leases exceeding in the aggregate fifteen thousand three hundred and sixty acres granted hereunder in any one State; and no person, association, or corporation shall take or hold at one time phosphate leases or permits exceeding in the aggregate five thousand one hundred and twenty acres in any one State, and exceeding in the aggregate ten thousand two hundred and forty acres in the United States."

SEC. 7. The first sentence of section 39 of such Act of February 25, 1920, as amended (47 Stat. 798, 30 U. S. C., sec. 209), is amended to read as follows:

"The Secretary of the Interior, for the purpose of encouraging the greatest ultimate recovery of coal, oil, gas, oil shale, phosphate, sodium, potassium and sulfur, and in the interest of conservation of natural resources, is authorized to waive, suspend, or reduce the rental, or minimum royalty, or reduce the royalty on an entire leasehold, or on any tract or portion thereof segregated for royalty purposes, whenever in his judgment it is necessary to do so in order to promote development, or whenever in his judgment the leases cannot be successfully operated under the terms provided therein."

SEC. 8. The Act entitled "An Act to grant extensions of time under coal permits", approved March 9, 1928, as amended (45 Stat. 251, 30 U. S. C., sec. 201a), is hereby repealed.

Use of silica or limestone deposits.  
*Ante*, p. 290; *supra*;  
*infra*.

Use of surface of other lands.  
*Ante*, p. 290; *supra*.

*Ante*, p. 285.

Restrictions on holdings.  
Coal or sodium.

Oil or gas.

Phosphate.

Waiver, etc., of rental or royalty.

Repeal.

Mining of potash.      **SEC. 9.** The second sentence of section 3 of the Act entitled "An Act to promote the mining of potash on the public domain", approved February 7, 1927, as amended (44 Stat. 1057, 30 U. S. C., sec. 283), is amended to read as follows: "Any lease issued under this Act shall be for a term of twenty years and so long thereafter as the lessee complies with the terms and conditions of the lease and upon the further condition that at the end of each twenty-year period succeeding the date of the lease such reasonable adjustment of the terms and conditions thereof may be made therein as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior unless otherwise provided by law at the expiration of such periods. Leases shall be conditioned upon a minimum annual production or the payment of a minimum royalty in lieu thereof, except when production is interrupted by strikes, the elements, or casualties not attributable to the lessee. The Secretary of the Interior may permit suspension of operations under any such leases when marketing conditions are such that the leases cannot be operated except at a loss. The Secretary upon application by the lessee prior to the expiration of any existing lease in good standing shall amend such lease to provide for the same tenure and to contain the same conditions, including adjustment at the end of each twenty-year period succeeding the date of said lease, as provided for in this Act."

Period of lease.

Condition.

Suspension of operations.

Amendment of lease.

Approved June 3, 1948.

[CHAPTER 380]

AN ACT

June 3, 1948  
 [S. 1035]  
 [Public Law 577]

To provide for the acquisition of the hospital at Camp White, Medford, Oregon, and Schick General Hospital, Clinton, Iowa, for use as domiciliary facilities by the Veterans' Administration.

Veterans' Administration.  
 Camp White Hospital.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is authorized and directed to acquire from the War Assets Administration the tract of land with improvements thereon formerly used for hospital purposes at Camp White, Medford, Oregon, and known as Camp White Hospital, and to operate and maintain thereon a facility for domiciliary care for veterans.

Schick General Hospital.

**SEC. 2.** That the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is authorized and directed to acquire from the War Assets Administration the tract of land with improvements thereon formerly used for hospital purposes at Clinton, Iowa, and known as Schick General Hospital, and to operate and maintain thereon a facility for domiciliary care for veterans.

Approved June 3, 1948.

[CHAPTER 381]

AN ACT

June 3, 1948  
 [H. R. 1608]  
 [Public Law 578]

To amend an Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Postmaster General to contract for certain powerboat service in Alaska, and for other purposes", approved August 10, 1939 (53 Stat. 1338).

30 U. S. C. § 487a.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Postmaster General to contract for certain powerboat service in Alaska, and for other purposes", approved August 10, 1939 (53 Stat. 1338), is amended by striking out "\$125,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$250,000".

Approved June 3, 1948.