

Report to district attorney.

Proceedings in court.

Release if no forfeiture proceedings in reasonable time.

Expenditures authorized for construction, etc.
Post, p. 1047.

Amounts authorized to be appropriated for expenditures.
Post, p. 842.

Amount authorized for acquiring areas.
Post, p. 342.

Conditions.

Post, p. 1254.

Punishment for violations.

Meaning of "person."

No exemption of laws for improvement, etc., of Mississippi River.

(c) A report of the seizure shall be made to the United States attorney for the judicial district in which the seizure is made, for forfeiture either (1) upon conviction of the offender under section 11, or (2) by proceedings by libel in rem. Such libel proceedings shall conform as near as may be to civil suits in admiralty, except that either party may demand trial by jury upon any issue of fact when the value in controversy exceeds \$20. In case of a jury trial the verdict of the jury shall have the same effect as the finding of the court upon the facts. Libel proceedings shall be at the suit and in the name of the United States. If such forfeiture proceedings are not instituted within a reasonable time, the United States attorney shall give notice thereof, and the custodian shall thereupon release the articles seized.

SEC. 9. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce are authorized to make such expenditures for construction, equipment, maintenance, repairs, and improvements, including expenditures for personal services at the seat of government and elsewhere, as may be necessary to execute the functions imposed upon them by this Act and as may be provided for by Congress from time to time.

(b) For such expenditures there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$50,000, to be available until expended, \$25,000 of such sum to be available for expenditure by the Secretary of Agriculture and \$25,000 by the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 10. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and to be available until expended, the sum of \$1,500,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the acquisition of any areas authorized by this Act to be acquired for such refuge and for all necessary expense incident to the acquisition of such areas; but no money shall be available for the acquisition of any area until the Secretary of Agriculture has ascertained that all of the areas to be acquired under this Act will be acquired within the amounts appropriated or authorized to be appropriated therefor and at an average price not in excess of \$5 per acre, and not in excess of the average selling price, during the years 1921, 1922, and 1923, of comparable lands within the vicinity of such areas.

SEC. 11. Any person who shall violate or fail to comply with any provision of or any regulation made pursuant to this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than \$500 or be imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

SEC. 12. As used in this Act the term "person" includes an individual, partnership, association, or corporation.

SEC. 13. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as exempting any portion of the Mississippi River from the provisions of Federal laws for the improvement, preservation, and protection of navigable waters, nor as authorizing any interference with the operations of the War Department in carrying out any project now or hereafter adopted for the improvement of said river.

Approved, June 7, 1924.

June 7, 1924.
[H. R. 4442.]
[Public, No. 269.]

CHAP. 347.—An Act To extend the insurance and collect-on-delivery service to third-class mail, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the requirement of section 8 of the Act of August 24, 1912, making

Postal service.
Vol. 37, p. 558.

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appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1913, and for other purposes (Thirty-seventh Statutes at Large, pages 557, 558, and 559), applicable to fourth-class (parcel post) mail: "That the Postmaster General shall make provision by regulation for the indemnification of shippers for shipment injured or lost, by insurance or otherwise, and when desired for the collection on delivery of the postage and price of the article shipped, fixing such charges as may be necessary to pay the cost of such additional service," is hereby extended to cover third-class domestic mail.

Approved, June 7, 1924.

Extension to lost third-class domestic mail of insurance and collect-on-delivery service.

CHAP. 348.—An Act To provide for the protection of forest lands, for the reforestation of denuded areas, for the extension of national forests, and for other purposes, in order to promote the continuous production of timber on lands chiefly suitable therefor

June 7, 1924.
[H. R. 4820.]
[Public, No. 270.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized and directed, in cooperation with appropriate officials of the various States or other suitable agencies, to recommend for each forest region of the United States such systems of forest fire prevention and suppression as will adequately protect the timbered and cut-over lands therein with a view to the protection of forest and water resources and the continuous production of timber on lands chiefly suitable therefor.

Forest perpetuation. Cooperation with States, etc., authorized for systems of fire prevention, timber production, etc.

SEC. 2. That if the Secretary of Agriculture shall find that the system and practice of forest fire prevention and suppression provided by any State substantially promotes the objects described in the foregoing section, he is hereby authorized and directed, under such conditions as he may determine to be fair and equitable in each State, to cooperate with appropriate officials of each State, and through them with private and other agencies therein, in the protection of timbered and forest-producing lands from fire. In no case other than for preliminary investigations shall the amount expended by the Federal Government in any State during any fiscal year, under this section, exceed the amount expended by the State for the same purpose during the same fiscal year, including the expenditures of forest owners or operators which are required by State law or which are made in pursuance of the forest protection system of the State under State supervision and for which in all cases the State renders satisfactory accounting. In the cooperation extended to the several States due consideration shall be given to the protection of watersheds of navigable streams, but such cooperation may, in the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture, be extended to any timbered or forest producing lands within the cooperating States.

Cooperation with State systems and practice.
Post, p. 1127.

Expenses not to exceed amounts used by States.

Protecting watersheds of navigable streams.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of Agriculture shall expend such portions of the appropriations authorized herein as he deems advisable to study the effects of tax laws, methods, and practices upon forest perpetuation, to cooperate with appropriate officials of the various States or other suitable agencies in such investigations and in devising tax laws designed to encourage the conservation and growing of timber, and to investigate and promote practical methods of insuring standing timber on growing forests from losses by fire and other causes. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated annually, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, not more than \$2,500,000, to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the provisions of sections 1, 2, and 3 of this Act.

Cooperation in devising tax laws to encourage growing of timber, etc.

Insurance against fire losses, etc.

Amount authorized annually for expenses.
Post, p. 849.