

Seward, Alaska, to purchase certain private utility properties if, among other conditions, such purchase is approved by the holders of 75 percent in principal amount of the electric revenue bonds of that municipality now outstanding. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation now holds \$96,000 in such bonds.

"As indicated in my letter of December 4, 1940, in respect to H. R. 10519, Seventy-sixth Congress, there appears to be no reason against the vesting of this authority in the town of Seward and I, therefore, see no objection to the enactment of such legislation. The Bureau of the Budget has, under date of December 2, 1940, and in respect to H. R. 10519, Seventy-sixth Congress, indicated concurrence in this opinion.

"Sincerely yours,

"Jesse H. Jones, Administrator."

Changes in existing law are indicated below, with matter proposed to be omitted enclosed in brackets and new matter proposed to be inserted printed in italics:

"Sec. 6. This act shall become effective thirty days after its passage: [Provided, however, That none of the powers herein granted to the said town of Seward, Alaska, shall be exercised by said town in the event that the Seward Light and Power Company, a corporation, shall within one week after a copy of this act is served on said Seward Light and Power Company, offer in writing to sell and convey to the said town of Seward all right, title, and interest in and to its electric generating plant or plants, electric distributing system, pipe lines, and water rights now owned by it and used and employed in supplying electric energy to the inhabitants of said town, said offer of sale to be for the sum of \$75,000, and to guarantee that delivery of said title, free from encumbrance and debt of any kind, shall be made to said town upon payment of said sum, any time within six months from date of said written offer to sell; Provided further, That said offer and agreement to convey title must be delivered by said Seward Light and Power Company to the town clerk of said town of Seward, Alaska, within the time specified above. Service of copy of this act on the Seward Light and Power Company shall be made by delivery thereof to its president, S. M. Graff, or any other officer of the corporation; And provided further, That in the event the said Seward Light and Power Company offers to sell and convey its properties as provided for in this section, the said town is authorized to purchase such properties and to issue bonds for such purpose in an amount not to exceed \$75,000, such bonds to be issued in the manner provided for in this act.] Provided, That if at any time hereafter the public utilities property consisting of an electric system and a telephone system now being operated in and adjacent to said town of Seward under the name of Seward Light and Power, or Seward Light and Power Company, shall be offered by the owner or owners thereof to the town of Seward at a reasonable price, and the purchase shall be approved by the holder or holders of not less than 75 per centum in principal amount of electric revenue bonds of said town outstanding on the date of approval by said bondholders, and by a majority of the qualified electors of the town of Seward voting upon the question at a regular election or at a special election called and held for that purpose within ninety days after the formal submission of said offer, the town of Seward is hereby authorized and empowered (a) to acquire said property, and to pay the agreed purchase price thereof; (b) to operate and maintain all or any part thereof for its own use and benefit and for the use and benefit of public and private consumers or users within and without the territorial boundaries of said town, as an integral part of the municipal electric system of said town; (c) to issue its bonds to finance in whole or in part the cost of acquiring said property; (d)

to prescribe and collect rates, fees, tolls, or charges for the services, facilities, and commodities furnished in connection with the operation of said property; (e) to pledge to the punctual payment of said bonds and interest thereon all or any part of the gross or net revenues from the operation of said property, separately or in conjunction with property heretofore acquired by said town (including improvements, betterments, or extensions thereto hereafter constructed or acquired); Provided further, That the principal amount of bonds authorized under the foregoing provisions of this section shall in no event be in excess of the purchase price stated in the offer and all proceedings for the issuance and sale of said bonds shall be submitted to and approved by the holder or holders of not less than 75 per centum in principal amount of aforesaid electric revenue bonds of said town outstanding on the date of such approval; Provided further, That said town may, upon consent of the holder or holders of not less than 75 per centum in principal amount of bonds of said town issued under this act and outstanding on the date of such consent, issue its refunding and acquisition bonds in the aggregate principal amount of bonds to be refunded and such additional principal amount as the probable revenues from the operation of the combined systems will reasonably justify. Refunding and acquisition bonds, if issued, shall bear interest not exceeding 4 per centum per annum; otherwise they shall be issued in compliance with other bond provisions contained in this act."

COPPER RIVER AND NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY CO.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 1283) authorizing the Copper River and Northwestern Railway Co. to convey to the United States its railroad right-of-way and other railroad properties in Alaska, for use as a public highway, tramroad, or tramway, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs with an amendment, in section 2, page 2, line 12, after the word "contrary", to strike out "and to dispose of such of said properties or parts thereof, under rules and regulations prescribed by him, as may not be needed in the repair, operation, and maintenance of the highway, tramroad, or tramway, the proceeds from the disposition of such properties to be available until expended for the construction, repair, and maintenance of roads, tramways, ferries, bridges, trails, and other works in the Territory of Alaska under the provisions of the said act of June 30, 1932", so as to make the bill read:

Be it enacted, etc., That the Copper River and Northwestern Railway Co., or any of its successors in interest or assigns, is hereby authorized to give and convey to the United States of America (1) all or any portion of its railroad right-of-way acquired under grants made by Congress or otherwise, including station and terminal grounds and lands used as sites for railroad structures or purposes of any kind, and (2) equipment, including telephone and telegraph poles and lines, ties, rails, rolling stock, bridges, buildings, and other properties in Alaska used in connection with the construction, maintenance, and operation of the railroad.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and empowered to accept, on behalf of the United States and without cost to the United States, gifts and conveyances of said properties to be used, operated, and maintained, as far as may be practicable or necessary, as a public highway, tramroad,

or tramway under the provisions of the act of June 30, 1932 (47 Stat. 446), notwithstanding anything within any act to the contrary.

Sec. 3. The provisions of the act of March 6, 1922 (43 Stat. 414), shall not affect the right-of-way, or any portion thereof, or any other lands or properties donated, granted, or conveyed to the United States pursuant to the authorization contained in this act.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

BILLS PASSED OVER

The bill (S. 1350) to amend section 1 of the act entitled "An act to provide that funds allocated to Puerto Rico under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 may be expended for permanent rehabilitation, and for other purposes," approved February 11, 1936, was announced as next in order.

Mr. McNARY. Let the bill go over.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be passed over.

The bill (S. 357) to provide for the rehabilitation of the anthracite coal industry was announced as next in order.

SEVERAL SENATORS. Let the bill go over.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be passed over.

REIMBURSEMENT OF NAVAL OFFICERS AND MEN FOR PROPERTY LOST OR DESTROYED

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 378) to amend the act of October 6, 1917, entitled "An act to provide for the reimbursement of officers, enlisted men, and others in the naval service of the United States for property lost or destroyed in such service," which had been reported from the Committee on Naval Affairs with amendments, on page 5, line 13, after the word "paid", to strike out "And provided" and insert "Provided further"; in line 23, after the word "officer", to strike out "of" and insert "for"; and, on page 6, after the words "Coast Guard", to insert:

And provided further, That the provisions of this act shall apply to the personnel of the Coast and Geodetic Survey in like manner as to the personnel of the Navy, except that all reimbursement shall be made in money and shall be limited to such articles of personal property as the Director of the Coast and Geodetic Survey shall decide to be reasonable, useful, and proper for such officer, member of the crew, or other person while engaged in the public service in line of duty, without reference to articles required by the United States Naval Regulations, and all of the duties, which, under this act, devolve upon the Major General Commandant of the Marine Corps with reference to the personnel of that corps, shall devolve upon the Director of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and in cases involving persons in the Coast and Geodetic Survey reimbursement shall be made by a disbursing officer for the Coast and Geodetic Survey from the Coast and Geodetic Survey appropriation from which the officer or man is paid.

So as to make the bill read:

Be it enacted, etc., That the act approved October 6, 1917 (40 Stat. 389), entitled "An act to provide for the reimbursement of officers, enlisted men, and others in the naval service of the United States for property lost or destroyed in such service", be amended by adding the words "or by fires, floods, earth-