

United States or the District of Columbia in respect to the items involved therein.

The sum of \$4,438,154.92, representing the difference between such credits and charges, is hereby made permanently available in such account of the District of Columbia for appropriation by the Congress for purchase of land and construction of buildings for public school, playground, and park purposes, other than and in addition to sums appropriated for such purposes in the District of Columbia Appropriation Act for the fiscal year 1926: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to deprive the District of Columbia, as of and on June 30, 1922, in addition to the sum named herein, of credit for the surplus of revenues of said District collected and deposited in the Treasury of the United States during the fiscal year 1922, over and above all appropriations and other charges for that year or of credit for the unexpended balances of District of Columbia appropriations covered into the surplus fund by warrant of the Secretary of the Treasury issued on June 30, 1922; or of credit for the proportion the District of Columbia may be entitled to of miscellaneous receipts paid directly into the Treasury during the fiscal year 1922; or of credit for the amount erroneously charged against the revenues of the District for the fiscal year 1922 on account of appropriations made by the third Deficiency Act, fiscal year 1922, approved July 1, 1922, as the amount of said appropriations were charged against the revenues of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year 1923, totaling the sum of \$819,373.83, which is included in the total sum of \$2,903,219.93 mentioned in line 8, page 2, of this bill, and taken into account in arriving at the net balance of \$4,438,154.92, above stated.

*Provided further*, That the Comptroller General of the United States shall ascertain and determine whether the items mentioned in the preceding proviso were improperly taken into account in arriving at the net balance of \$4,438,154.92, and if, and to the extent that, any or all of said items shall be so determined to have been improperly taken into account, the amount thereof shall be added to the said fund of \$4,438,154.92 and likewise shall be available permanently in the general account of the District of Columbia for appropriation by the Congress for such purposes as it may from time to time provide: *And provided further*, That the Comptroller General shall submit to the Congress at its next regular session a detailed report of the result of his determination and action as authorized herein.

Approved, February 2, 1925.

**CHAP. 128.**—An Act To encourage commercial aviation and to authorize the Postmaster General to contract for air mail service.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That this Act may be cited as the Air Mail Act.

SEC. 2. That when used in this Act the term "air mail" means first-class mail prepaid at the rates of postage herein prescribed.

SEC. 3. That the rates of postage on air mail shall be not less than 10 cents for each ounce or fraction thereof.

SEC. 4. That the Postmaster General is authorized to contract with any individual, firm, or corporation for the transportation of air mail by aircraft between such points as he may designate at a rate not to exceed four-fifths of the revenues derived from such air mail, and to further contract for the transportation by aircraft of first-class mail other than air mail at a rate not to exceed four-fifths of the revenues derived from such first-class mail.

Use of specified difference for schools, playgrounds, and parks additional to regular, appropriations.

*Provisos.* Additional credits not prevented.

Unexpended balances covered into surplus fund.

Miscellaneous receipts paid into Treasury direct.

Erroneous charges in Third Deficiency Act, 1922.

Determination by Comptroller General of amounts improperly charged.

Items erroneously charged added to funds.

Report.

February 2, 1925.  
[H. R. 7064.]  
[Public, No. 359.]

Air Mail Act.

Meaning of "air mail."

Postage rate.

Contracts authorized for carrying air mail by aircraft.

Other first-class mail.

Rules, etc., to be made.

*Proviso.*  
Government operated routes not interfered with.

SEC. 5. That the Postmaster General may make such rules, regulations, and orders as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act: *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to interfere with the postage charged or to be charged on Government operated air-mail routes.

Approved, February 2, 1925.

February 3, 1925.

[S. 1199.]

[Public, No. 360.]

CHAP. 133.—An Act Authorizing the appointment of William Schuyler Woodruff as an Infantry officer, United States Army.

Army.  
William Schuyler Woodruff may be appointed an officer of Infantry.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the President be, and hereby is, authorized to appoint William Schuyler Woodruff, formerly a captain of Infantry, United States Army, an officer of Infantry, United States Army.

Approved, February 3, 1925.

February 4, 1925.

[S. 2842.]

[Public, No. 361.]

CHAP. 140.—An Act To provide for compulsory school attendance, for the taking of a school census in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

District of Columbia.  
Compulsory school attendance.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*,

#### ARTICLE I.—COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Resident children of 7 to 16 to have instruction during school year.

SECTION 1. Every parent, guardian, or other person residing permanently or temporarily in the District of Columbia who has custody or control of a child between the ages of seven and sixteen years shall cause said child to be regularly instructed in a public school or in a private or parochial school or instructed privately during the period of each year in which the public schools of the District of Columbia are in session: *Provided*, That instruction given in such private or parochial school, or privately, is deemed equivalent by the Board of Education to the instruction given in the public schools.

*Proviso.*  
Private instruction accepted.

Excused for employment after completing 8th grade, etc.

SEC. 2. Any child between the ages of fourteen and sixteen years who has completed satisfactorily the eighth-grade course of study prescribed for the public elementary schools of the District of Columbia, or a course of study deemed by the Board of Education equivalent thereto, may be excused by the superintendent of schools from further attendance at school under the provisions of this Act, provided he is actually, lawfully, and regularly employed.

Certificate if mentally or physically unfit.

SEC. 3. The Board of Education of the District of Columbia may issue a certificate excusing from attendance at school a child who, upon examination ordered by such board, is found to be unable mentally or physically to profit from attendance at school: *Provided*, however, That if such examination shows that such child may benefit from specialized instruction adapted to his needs, he shall attend upon such instruction.

*Proviso.*  
Special instruction to be provided.

Absence without valid excuse unlawful.

SEC. 4. The Board of Education shall define in its rules and regulations valid excuses for absence from school, and the absence of a child between the ages of seven and sixteen years for any reason other than so defined as valid shall be unlawful.

Daily record of attendance to be kept by teachers.

SEC. 5. An accurate daily record of the attendance of all children between the ages of seven and sixteen years shall be kept by the teachers of every public, private, or parochial school and by every teacher giving instruction privately. Such record shall at all times

Inspection, etc.