SIXTY-NINTH CONGRESS.  Ses. II.  Ch. 503.  1927.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That section 8 of an Act entitled "An Act to provide a civil government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes," approved March 2, 1917, as amended, and for the insertion of a new section in the Act between sections 5 and 6 of said Act, to be designated as "5a" of said Act.

SEC. 1. That all citizens of the United States who shall hereafter reside in the island for one year shall be citizens of Porto Rico: Provided, That persons born in Porto Rico and who may hereafter reside in the island for one year shall be citizens of Porto Rico.

SEC. 2. That a new section is hereby inserted between sections 5 and 6 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide a civil government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes," approved March 2, 1917, as amended, as follows:

"SEC. 5a. That all citizens of the United States who have resided or who shall hereafter reside in the island for one year shall be citizens of Porto Rico: Provided, That persons born in Porto Rico..."
of alien parents, referred to in the last paragraph of section 5, who did not avail themselves of the privilege granted to them of becoming citizens of the United States, shall have a period of one year from the approval of this Act to make the declaration provided for in the aforesaid section: and provided further, That persons who elected to retain the political status of citizens of Porto Rico may within one year after the passage of this Act become citizens of the United States upon the same terms and in the same manner as is provided for the naturalization of native Porto Ricans born of foreign parents.

Sec. 3. That section 20 of the said Act be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 20. That there shall be appointed by the President an auditor, at an annual salary of $6,000, for a term of four years and until his successor is appointed and qualified. There shall be an assistant auditor and such other necessary assistants and employees as may be prescribed by law. The auditor shall appoint the assistant auditor. In case of the absence from duty, from any cause, of the auditor, the assistant auditor shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the auditor during such absence; and in case of the absence from duty, from any cause, of both the auditor and the assistant auditor, the Governor of Porto Rico shall designate an assistant who shall have charge of the office.

"The auditor shall examine, adjust, decide, audit, and settle all accounts and claims pertaining to the revenues and receipts from whatever source of the government of Porto Rico and of the municipal funds derived from bond issues; and he shall examine, audit, and settle, in accordance with law and administrative regulations, all expenditures of funds and property pertaining to or held in trust by the government of Porto Rico or the municipalities or dependencies thereof. He shall perform a like duty with respect to all government branches.

"The auditor shall keep the general accounts of the government, be the custodian of and preserve the vouchers pertaining thereto. The jurisdiction of the auditor over accounts, whether of funds or property, and all vouchers and records pertaining thereto, shall be exclusive. It shall be the duty of the auditor to bring to the attention of the proper administrative officer expenditures of funds or property which, in his opinion, are extravagant, excessive, unnecessary, or irregular.

"The decisions of the auditor shall be final, except that appeal therefrom may be taken by the party aggrieved or the head of the department concerned within one year, in the manner hereinafter prescribed. The auditor shall, except as hereinafter provided, have like authority as that conferred by the law upon the Comptroller General of the United States, and is authorized to communicate directly with any person having claims before him for settlement, or with any department, officer, or person having official relation with his office.

"The auditor, with the approval of the governor, shall from time to time make and promulgate general or special rules and regulations not inconsistent with law covering the methods of accounting for public funds and property, and funds and property held in trust by the government or any of its branches: Provided, That any officer accountable for public funds or property may require such additional reports or returns from his subordinates or others as he may deem necessary for his own information and protection.

"In the execution of his duties the auditor is authorized to summon witnesses, administer oaths, and to take evidence, and, in the pursuance of these provisions, may issue subpoenas and enforce the
attendance of witnesses, and compel witnesses to produce books, letters, documents, papers, records, and all other articles deemed essential to a full understanding of the matter under investigation. For this purpose after the close of each fiscal year the accounts of said year may be examined and adjusted, the auditor shall submit to the governor an annual report of the fiscal concern of the government, showing the receipts and disbursements of the various departments and bureaus of the government and of the various municipalities, and make such other reports as may be required of him by the governor or the head of the executive department of the Government of the United States to be designated by the President as herein provided.

"The office of the auditor shall be under the general supervision of the governor."

Sec. 4. That section 31 of the said Act be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 31. That members of the senate and house of representatives of Porto Rico shall receive compensation at the rate of $7 per day for the number of days of each regular session and of each special session while in session and mileage for each regular session and each special session at the rate of 10 cents per kilometer for each kilometer actually and necessarily traveled in going from their place of residence in their legislative districts to the capital and returning therefrom to their place of residence in their legislative districts by the usual routes of travel: Provided, That mileage for only one trip in going to and from each regular session and each special session shall be allowed: And provided further, That the members of the senate and house of representatives of Porto Rico shall not be entitled to nor receive any emoluments, remuneration, compensation, or payment for services or expenses other than the $7 per day compensation for services and 10 cents per kilometer for travel expense in this section authorized."

Sec. 5. That section 33 of the said Act be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 33. That regular sessions of the legislature shall be held annually, convening on the second Monday in February of each year and closing not later than April 15 following; the governor may call special sessions of the legislature or of the senate at any time in his opinion the public interests may require it, but no special session shall continue longer than fourteen calendar days, and no legislation shall be considered at such session other than that specified in the call therefor or in any special message by the governor to the legislature while in such session."

Sec. 6. That section 38 of the said Act be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 38. That all grants of franchises, rights, privileges, and concessions of a public or quasi public nature shall be made by a public service commission consisting of a public service commissioner, who shall be the president of the said commission, and two associated commissioners, to be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. The Public Service Commissioner shall be appointed for a term of three years and until his successor shall be appointed and shall have qualified, and one of the said associated commissioners, first appointed, shall hold for a term of two years and one shall hold for a term of one year; and thereafter, each of said associate commissioners shall hold for a term of three years and until their successors shall have been appointed and shall have qualified: Provided, That the present elective members of the said commission shall continue to be members of said commission until their term of office expires as now provided by law and shall form the commis-
sion, together with the three members appointed by the governor as aforesaid, until the expiration of such period of their services and not thereafter. The salary of the commissioner shall be $5,000 a year and the said commissioner shall devote his entire time to his duties as such commissioner. The compensation of the associated members, both those elected and appointed, shall be $10 for each day's attendance at the sessions of the commission; but in no case shall they receive more than $1,000 during any one year. The said commission is empowered and directed to discharge all the executive functions relating to public service corporations heretofore conferred by law upon the executive council and such additional duties and functions as may be conferred upon said commission by the legislature. Franchises, rights, and privileges granted by the said commission shall not be effective until approved by the governor and shall be reported to Congress, which hereby reserves the power to annul or modify the same.

"The Interstate Commerce Act and the several amendments made or to be made thereto, the Safety Appliance Acts and the several amendments made or to be made thereto, and the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to regulate commerce," approved February 4, 1887, and all Acts amendatory thereof, by providing for a valuation of the several classes of property of carriers subject thereto and securing information concerning their stocks, bonds, and other securities," approved March 4, 1913, shall not apply to Porto Rico.

"The legislative assembly of Porto Rico is hereby authorized to enact laws relating to the regulation of the rates, tariffs, and service of all public carriers in Porto Rico, and the public service commission hereby created shall have power to enforce such laws under appropriate regulation."

Sec. 7. That section 48 of the said Act be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 48. That the Supreme and District Courts of Porto Rico and the respective judges thereof may grant writs of habeas corpus in all cases in which the same are grantable by the judges of the District Courts of the United States, and the District Courts may grant writs of mandamus in all proper cases.

"That no suit for the purpose of restraining the assessment or collection of any tax imposed by the laws of Porto Rico shall be maintained in the District Court of the United States for Porto Rico.

Approved, March 4, 1927.

CHAP. 604.—An Act To authorize the construction of three cottages and an annex to the hospital at the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Marion, Indiana.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers is authorized and directed to construct at the Marion Branch of such home, at Marion, Indiana, on land now owned by the United States, three cottages with an aggregate capacity of two hundred beds, and a sanitary, fireproof hospital annex to the present hospital with a capacity of fifty beds.

Sec. 2. Upon the order of a member of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, the following persons shall be admitted to such cottages and hospital annex for the purpose of receiving medical treatment and the other benefits