

[Acts No. 1854, June 13, 1908]

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE APPROPRIATION, OF SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS ANNUALLY FOR THE PROMOTION, ESTABLISHMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

By authority of the United States, be it enacted by the Philippine Legislature, that:

SECTION 1. Beginning with the fiscal year nineteen hundred and ten a continuing annual appropriation of seven hundred and fifty thousand pesos is hereby authorized to be paid from money in the Insular Treasury not otherwise appropriated to constitute a special permanent fund to be spent in accordance with this law for the investigation, study, construction, maintenance, and development of irrigation systems in the Philippine Islands, and for the repair of those systems which are already in existence. All sums appropriated for this purpose in previous years and which have not been spent shall accrue to this special fund and shall be expended in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 2. The purposes of this Act there is hereby created in Bureau of Public Works a division of irrigation, at whose head shall be a general superintendent of irrigation who shall be an experienced hydraulic engineer and shall be appointed by the Governor-General, with the advice and consent of the Philippine Commission. The duties of the general superintendent of irrigation shall be to have supervision and direction of the general investigation and construction of irrigation systems throughout the Philippine Islands. He shall receive an annual salary of eight thousand pesos and his actual and necessary traveling expenses when absent from his office in the performance of his official duties.

SEC. 3. The general superintendent of irrigation when duly appointed and qualified as provided in the next preceding section, shall make a study of a plan adequate for the establishment of an economical and complete system of irrigation for all the Philippine Islands and shall submit a report of such plan for the approval of the Secretary of Commerce and Police.

SEC. 4. When the Secretary of Commerce and Police shall approve this plan he may order that the works be begun at once and the general superintendent of irrigation shall thereupon take the necessary steps for the execution of the said irrigation system in those provinces and places where irrigation is most needed.

SEC. 5. Upon receipt of a request from any provincial board, requests for municipality, barrio, or from any group of inhabitants in the locality interested in obtaining a portion of the funds authorized by this Act, together with a promise on their part to pay an equitable rate to the Government of the Philippine Islands for the use of the water in such quantities as to reimburse the Government for the cost of the irrigation works within a given number of years, which shall not exceed twenty, the Secretary of Commerce and Police, if he is satisfied with the conditions contained in the Plans and specification request, shall instruct the general superintendent of irrigation to prepare the plans and specifications for the irrigation system requested and the probable cost of such system, within the period of ninety days; and, if these estimates and specifications are satisfactory, the construction of