

§ 423b. Suspension of payment of construction charges against areas temporarily unproductive

The payment of all construction charges against said areas temporarily unproductive shall remain suspended until the Secretary of the Interior shall declare them to be possessed of sufficient productive power properly to be placed in a paying class, whereupon payment of construction charges against such areas shall be resumed or shall begin, as the case may be. Any payments made on such areas shall be credited to the unpaid balance of the construction charge on the productive area of each unit. Such credit shall be applied on and after April 23, 1930, which shall not be construed to require revision of accounts adjusted before April 23, 1930, under the provisions of this section as originally enacted. While said lands so classified as temporarily unproductive and the construction charges against them are suspended, water for irrigation purposes may be furnished upon payment of the usual operation and maintenance charges, or such other charges as may be fixed by the Secretary of the Interior the advance payment of which may be required, in the discretion of the said Secretary. Should said lands temporarily classed as unproductive, or any of them, in the future be found by the Secretary of the Interior to be permanently unproductive, the charges against them shall be charged off as a permanent loss to the reclamation fund and they shall thereupon be treated in the same manner as other permanently unproductive lands as provided in sections 423 to 423g and 610 of this title except that no refund shall be made of the construction charges paid on such unproductive areas and applied as a credit on productive areas as herein authorized.

(May 25, 1926, ch. 383, § 43, 44 Stat. 647; Apr. 23, 1930, ch. 205, 46 Stat. 249.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 423 to 423g and 610 of this title, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", meaning act of May 25, 1926, ch. 383, 44 Stat. 636, as amended, which enacted sections 423 to 423g and 610 of this title. Section 610 of this title was omitted from the Code. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1930—Act Apr. 23, 1930, provided that the credit shall be applied on or after April 23, 1930, and was not to be construed as requiring revision of accounts adjusted before such date, and that no refund shall be made of the charges on unproductive areas and applied as a credit on productive areas.

§ 423c. Exchange of unpatented entries; entries, farms or private lands, eliminated from project; rights not assignable; rights of lienholders; preference to ex-service men

Settlers who have unpatented entries under any of the public land laws embracing lands which have been eliminated from the project, or whose entries under water rights have been so reduced that the remaining area is insufficient to support a family, shall be entitled to exchange their entries for other public lands within the same project or any other existing Federal reclamation project, with credit under the

homestead laws for residence, improvement, and cultivation made or performed by them upon their original entries and with credit upon the new entry for any construction charges paid upon or in connection with the original entry: *Provided*, That when satisfactory final proof has been made on the original entry it shall not be necessary to submit final proof upon the lieu entry. Any entryman whose entry or farm unit is reduced by the elimination of permanently unproductive land shall be entitled to enter an equal amount of available public land on the same project contiguous to or in the vicinity of the farm unit reduced by elimination, with all credits in this section hereinbefore specified in lieu of the lands eliminated. Owners of private lands so eliminated from the project may, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, and free from all encumbrances, relinquish and convey to the United States lands so owned and held by them, not exceeding an area of one hundred and sixty acres, and select an equal area of vacant public land within the irrigable area of the same or any other Federal reclamation project, with credit upon the construction costs of the lands selected to the extent and in the amount paid upon or in connection with their relinquished lands, and the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to revise and consolidate farm units, so far as this may be made necessary or advisable, with a view to carrying out the provisions of this section: *Provided further*, That the rights extended under this section shall not be assignable: *And provided further*, That in administering the provisions of this section and section 423a of this title, the Secretary of the Interior shall take into consideration the rights and interests of lien holders, as to him may seem just and equitable: *Provided further*, That where two entrymen apply for the same farm unit under the exchange provisions of this section, only one whom¹ is an ex-service man, as defined by section 438² of this title, the ex-service man shall have a preference in making such exchange.

(May 25, 1926, ch. 383, § 44, 44 Stat. 648.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 438 of this title, referred to in text, was repealed by act Aug. 13, 1953, ch. 428, § 10, 67 Stat. 568. For provisions giving preference to ex-servicemen, see section 451g of this title.

§ 423d. Amendment of existing water right contracts by Secretary of the Interior

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized, in his discretion, to amend any existing water-right contract to the extent necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 423 to 423g and 610 of this title, upon request of the holder of such contract. The Secretary of the Interior, as a condition precedent to the amendment of any existing water-right contract, shall require the execution of a contract by a water-users' association or irrigation district whereby such association or irrigation district shall be required to pay to the United States, without regard to default in the payment of charges against any in-

¹ So in original. Probably should be "one of whom".

² See References in Text note below.