

72. — When it appears that a land owner has abandoned his land for more than ten years, the Minister of Lands and Agriculture, after a formal inquiry, may apply to the Court for a declaration that the land has been abandoned and upon such declaration the Land Register shall be altered accordingly.

G. 928. Land Law 2459, s. 4 and 5.

TITLE V.

Expropriation.

73. — Lands and any other immovable properties which are required by the Government for national use or public works shall be subject to expropriation, that is to say to a compulsory purchase according to the provisions of the present Title.

74. — When the construction of a public work is decided without the exact area or tract being finally surveyed, a decree may be issued to mark out a zone within the limits of which the public work is likely to be constructed.

Such decree shall be valid for two years or for such other period stated therein which may be deemed necessary for the completion of the final survey. It shall specify the Ministry or Department (hereafter to be referred to as the Ministry or Department in charge) which is competent for the execution of the scheme.

75. — During the period of validity of the zone decree the officials of the Ministry or Department in

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75.—During the period of validity of the zone decree the officials of the Ministry or Department in

charge are entitled to make on the properties of any person all the operations which may be necessary for a complete survey, such as to take measurements, to put up stakes in the ground, to collect samples of stones, sand or other material, etc. provided that the owners or lawful occupants of such properties shall receive compensation for any injury resulting from such operations of survey.

76. — When the final survey, or a part thereof, is completed, a special decree shall authorize expropriation and state :

- 1) the purpose for which such expropriation is authorized,
- 2) the lands and other immovables subject to expropriation and the places or districts where they are situated,
- 3) the Ministry or Department in charge of the expropriation.

A map or plan showing the boundaries of the land required for national use or for the construction of public works and the boundaries of each separate piece of land partly or wholly subject to expropriation shall be annexed to such decree.

77. — The decree shall be published in the Government Gazette.

78. — A certified copy of the decree with the map annexed thereto shall be deposited :

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- 1) at the offices of the Ministry or Department in charge ;

- 2) at the offices of the Provinces, Townships and other local authorities in which the lands and other immovables subject to expropriation are situated ;
- 3) at the offices of the land-record in the provinces in which the lands and other immovables subject to expropriation are situated.

79. — On and after the date of the publication of the decree in the Government Gazette, the ownership of the lands and other immovables specified in the decree is vested in the Ministry or Department in charge, but such Ministry or Department shall have the right to take possession thereof only on payment or deposit of an indemnity, in the manner hereinafter provided.

On and after the same date, if any person having a right on the said lands and other immovables disposes of such right in favour of a third person, the latter can exercise the transferred right only against the indemnity.

80. — Indemnity shall be granted :

- 1) to the owner of a land subject to expropriation ;
- 2) to the owner of a building existing on such land on the day when the zone decree was promulgated or erected afterwards with special authorization ;
- 3) to the lessee of the land or building subject to expropriation, provided the lease be in writing and executed before the date of the promulgation of the zone decree, or

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