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DOCUMENTS.

Referred to by the Committee of Ways and Means, in the report to the House of Representatives, as published in our list.

Letter to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Committee Room, Jan. 6, 1860. S. P. R.

In compliance with a resolution of the committee of ways and means, I have the honor to request that you will, for their use, the following information, as promptly as may accord with your convenience.

1st. An estimate of the expense and revenue of the current year, according to existing laws.

2d. A statement of the receipts and expenditures for the last quarter of the last year, as far as they can be ascertained from the accounts made up at the treasury.

3d. A statement of the account between the United States, and the bank as it now stands, more especially with respect to the reimbursement of the former loans.

With very great respect, I have the honor to be, SIR,

Your obedient servant, ROBERT G. HARPER.

The Hon. the Secretary of the Treasury.

(No. 2)

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury.

Treasury Department, Jan. 22, 1860. S. P. R.

I have the honor to transmit herewith three statements, which have been prepared in compliance with the request of the committee of ways and means.

1st. An estimate of the revenue and expenditures of the United States, from the 1st of October to the 31st of December, '59.

2d. A statement of the receipts and expenditures of the United States, from the 1st of October, to the 31st of December, '59.

3d. A statement of the loans made by the bank of the United States, exhibiting the sums remaining unpaid.

Various enquiries have been lately made respecting the public debt; I have judged it expedient to state the capitals of the different stocks, at the close of the last year.

The following debts have been incurred and remain unpaid, in consequence of expenditures authorized by congress, under the present constitution of the United States.

The balance due to the bank of the United States, being

Dollars, 3,640,000

From which deduct the cost of 2220 slaves, which are held by the United States, 833,000

2,752,000

The amount of 6 per cent. stock, issued pursuant to an act of congress, passed on the 31st of May, '56; the proceeds of which were applied towards the payment of the bank of New-York, 50,000

The 3 per cent. stock issued in '50 pursuant to an act, passed on the 16th July, '53, 5,000,000

The 6 per cent. navy stock, issued in '59, pursuant to an act passed on the 30th of June '53, 109,200

There will be issued of 6 per cent. navy stock, in payment for ships now preparing for service, which may be deemed a debt, already incurred, though not liquidated, about 820,000

Amounting in the whole to 8,701,200

The following sums may be properly applied to the debts above enumerated.

The sums of stocks purchased and redeemed, the interest whereon is held in the trustees of the sinking fund, 4,794,219 60

The sums reimbursed on the 1st of January 1860, of the principal of the 6 per cent. stock, pursuant to the act of March 3d, 1795, computed at 2,540,641 90

Amounting to 7,244,861 50

The principal debt of the United States, has therefore increased since the establishment of the present government, the fund of one million five hundred and sixteen thousand three hundred and thirty eight dollars and fifty cents.

I have the honor to be, Sir, With the greatest respect, Yours most obedient servant, OLIVER W. HOLLOMAN.

The Hon. the Secretary of the Treasury.

(No. 3)

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury.

Treasury Department, Jan. 23, 1860. S. P. R.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst., and in reply to inform you that the committee of ways and means, are prepared on the existing law, without any reference to that measure; it will be important for the committee to be informed as to the amount of the probable amount of those expenditures, in case the bill in question should be agreed to. I have therefore the honor of requesting that you will be so good as to furnish me as soon as circumstances may permit with an estimate of the nature and amount of the nature of the expenditures, and also with an abstract of the statements and returns whereon it may be founded.

With sentiments of very high respect, I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient very humble servant, ROBERT G. HARPER.

The Hon. Secretary at War.

(No. 5)

War Department, Jan. 30, 1860. S. P. R.

I have the honor to enclose the copy of a letter from me to Major-General Hamilton the object of which is to provide, as far as practicable, against a waste of public monies, in either of the events of a suspension of enlistments, being directed by law, or of the speedy settlement of our differences with the French Republic. I enclose also, agreeably to your request, an estimate in detail to exhibit, as far as practicable, the probable amount of the military appropriations that will be required for the present year, in case the bill for suspending enlistments, now before the Senate should pass into a law. It must be supposed that several impracticable circumstances, required to be weighed with due consideration, when deciding upon an appropriation with either of the events mentioned in prospect.

1st. The time which must be consumed in transmitting orders to the officers at the different rendezvous, to dismiss their recruits, or suspend further enlistments.—There are in N. Hampshire 4 recruiting rendezvous, in Vermont 2, Rhode Island 3, Massachusetts 20, Connecticut 10, New-Jersey 6, Pennsylvania 12, Delaware 12, Maryland 14, Virginia 29, N. Carolina 9, South-Carolina 6, Georgia 2, Kentucky 2, and Tennessee 1.

2d. The time it will require for each officer and soldier to return home, and for which they are by law to be allowed pay and rations or an equivalent in money.

3d. The time it will take to pay of the officers and men.

4th. The expense which will attend removing to the public depots, the several articles of clothing, tents, and camp equipage, which are widely scattered over a great extent of the country.

5th. The expense to contractors on breaking up of the army, for transporting provisions from places where they can be consumed conformably to the uniform provision of contracts.

The disbanding of an army, settlements with the individuals who composed it, and due attention to collect, and deposit safely the various articles of public property it had in use, will always occasion considerable extra expenses, respecting which it is impossible to furnish precise and satisfactory items.

I am Sir, With great respect, Your obedient servant, JAMES M. HENRY.

The Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means.

(The estimate accompanying this letter amounts to 3,005,076 dollars and 35 cents.)

(No. 7)

Committee Room, Jan. 30, 1860. S. P. R.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd inst., and in reply to inform you that the committee of ways and means, are prepared on the existing law, without any reference to that measure; it will be important for the committee to be informed as to the amount of the probable amount of those expenditures, in case the bill in question should be agreed to. I have therefore the honor of requesting that you will be so good as to furnish me as soon as circumstances may permit with an estimate of the nature and amount of the nature of the expenditures, and also with an abstract of the statements and returns whereon it may be founded.

With sentiments of very high respect, I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient very humble servant, ROBERT G. HARPER.

The Hon. Secretary at War.

(No. 8)

Navy Department, February 3. S. P. R.

The five oak frames for the six 74 gun ships, will cost, delivered at the building places 300,000 dollars, the other timber will cost 13,000 dollars, the necessary preparations at each yard, for building not only these ships but also the other authorized, securing the timber for seasoning & purchasing sufficient ground for spacious building yards, where the timber can be deposited, in order, so as to avoid considerable expense in piling and unloading to get the particular pieces wanted, will cost 20,000 making 630,000 dollars.

The greatest part of these expenses are already incurred, and the whole must be advanced early in the spring. This amount added to the cost of the six small vessels to be built out of the appropriation of one million of dollars, being 20,000 dollars, will absorb nearly the million of dollars appropriated for these objects. The sums which have been advanced, and must be advanced for copper, will amount to more than the difference, but there may be a saving in the expense of preparing the yards.

It is for the wisdom of Congress to determine whether we shall stop here or go on rapidly, in building the six 74 gun ships. In the latter case, 600,000 dollars will be wanted for three ships in the present year. But if we may safely wait until the timber for the ships is properly seasoned, they will be infinitely better and more durable by many years, than if they are now built with timber cut from the woods only in the present winter, and consequently in a very green state—and if we can so wait, this 600,000 dollars will not be wanted for the present year.

If we stop here, we shall always be in a situation to lay the keels, and to proceed with such rapidity in building the ships, as to afford ground to hope that they may be sent to sea in less than a year from the commencement of the building.

I have the honor to be, Sir, With great respect, Yours most obedient servant, BENJAMIN STODDERT.

H. R. G. Harper Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means.

(No. 9)

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury.

Treasury Department, Feb. 24, 1860. S. P. R.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd inst., and in reply to inform you that the committee of ways and means, are prepared on the existing law, without any reference to that measure; it will be important for the committee to be informed as to the amount of the probable amount of those expenditures, in case the bill in question should be agreed to. I have therefore the honor of requesting that you will be so good as to furnish me as soon as circumstances may permit with an estimate of the nature and amount of the nature of the expenditures, and also with an abstract of the statements and returns whereon it may be founded.

With sentiments of very high respect, I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient very humble servant, ROBERT G. HARPER.

The Hon. Secretary at War.

(No. 10)

War Department, Feb. 24, 1860. S. P. R.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd inst., and in reply to inform you that the committee of ways and means, are prepared on the existing law, without any reference to that measure; it will be important for the committee to be informed as to the amount of the probable amount of those expenditures, in case the bill in question should be agreed to. I have therefore the honor of requesting that you will be so good as to furnish me as soon as circumstances may permit with an estimate of the nature and amount of the nature of the expenditures, and also with an abstract of the statements and returns whereon it may be founded.

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War Department, Feb. 24, 1860. S. P. R.

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The Hon. Secretary at War.

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War Department, Feb. 24, 1860. S. P. R.

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