

Gazette of the United States.

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[No. 58, of Vol. III.]

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1791.

[Whole No. 266.]

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN SENATE, NOVEMBER 7, 1791.

The report of the trustees of the sinking fund, was read as follows:

THE Vice-President of the United States and President of the Senate, the Chief Justice, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney-General, respectfully report to the Congress of the United States of America—

That pursuant to the act, intitled, "An Act making provision for the reduction of the public debt," and in conformity to two resolutions agreed upon by them, one on the 15th day of January, and another on the 15th of August last, and severally approved by the President of the United States, they have caused purchases of the said debt to be made through the agency respectively of Samuel Meredith, Treasurer of the United States, William Seton, cashier of the Bank of New-York, Benjamin Lincoln, collector of the district of Boston and Charleston, and William Heth, collector of the district of Bermuda Hundred, to the amount of 852,677 dollars 46 cents, for which there have been paid 540,924 dollars and 14 cents, in specie, as will more particularly appear by the several documents No. 1 to 8, herewith submitted as part of this report, and which specify the places where, the times when, the prices at which, and the persons of whom the said purchases have been made.

That the statements of William Seton and Benjamin Lincoln have not yet passed through the forms of settlement, it appears by the document No. 8, being a certified transcript from the books of the Treasury, that the amount of the stock by them respectively reported to have been purchased, has been duly transferred to the said books.

That the purchases now and heretofore reported, amount in the whole to 1,313,364 dollars and 76 cents, for which there have been paid 699,163 dollars and 38 cents, in specie.

Signed in behalf of the Board,

JOHN ADAMS.

BY WHOM PURCHASED.	Amount of 6 per cent. stock.		Amount of 3 per cent. stock.		Amount of deferred stock.		Total amount of stock purchased.		Amount of specie paid for the purchases.	
	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.
Samuel Meredith, from passing of the act to December 6th, 1790, to Jan. 11, 1791,	156,308.	50	61,072.	47	278,687.	30	159,239.	24	51,449.	32
Ditto, December 7th, 1790, to Jan. 11, 1791,	37,781.	68	26,477.	13	79,661.	32	51,449.	32	48,559.	68
Ditto, January 12th, to Feb. 1st,	42,198.	91	14,798.	63	68,776.	72	48,559.	68	48,559.	68
Ditto, August 17th, to Sept. 19th,	5,627.	94	94,487.	67	238,721.	48	148,984.	71	148,984.	71
William Seton, August 19th, to August 27th,	13,291.	8	173,708.	88	186,999.	96	116,542.	69	116,542.	69
Ditto, 31st, to Sept. 5th,	12,482.	21	41,548.	82	54,031.	1	33,457.	31	33,457.	31
Ditto, Sept. 10th, to Sept. 12th,	27,192.	7	49,000.	80	76,192.	67	50,000.	80	50,000.	80
William Heth, February 24th, to April 2d,	37,014.	34	14,714.	77	51,728.	30	49,934.	39	49,934.	39
Benjamin Lincoln, February 23d, to March 3d,	311,123.	44	28,720.	66	339,843.	76	699,163.	38	699,163.	38

JOSEPH NOURSE, Register.
Treasury Department, Register's Office, November 4th, 1791.

	Dols.	Cts.
The first relating to the civil list, or the expenditure for the support of government during the year 1792 (including incidental and contingent expenses of the several departments and offices amounting to	328,653.	56
The second relating to certain liquidated claims upon the Treasury; to certain deficiencies in former estimates for the current service, and to provision in aid of the fund heretofore appropriated for the payment of certain officers of the courts, jurors, witnesses, &c.	197,119.	49
The third relating to the department of war, shewing the stated expenditure of that department for the year 1792,	357,731.	61
The amount of a years pensions to invalids, Pay and subsistence to sundry officers for which no appropriation has yet been made,	87,463.	60½
Arrearages due upon Indian affairs for the year 1791, and the sum supposed to be necessary for the year 1792,	10,490.	36
Expences incurred for the defensive protection of the frontiers for the year 1790, and 1791, and for which no appropriation has yet been made,	39,424.	71
Amounting together to	1,058,222.	81½

As appears by No. 4, which contains a summary of the three preceding ones: exhibiting in one view the total sum as above stated, for which an appropriation is requisite.

The funds out of which the said appropriation may be made, are, first, the sum of six hundred thousand dollars reserved annually out of the duties on imports and tonnage, by the act making provision for the debt of the United States, for the support of the government thereof: And secondly, such surplus as shall have accrued to the end of the present year, upon the revenues heretofore established, over and above the sums necessary for the payment of interest on the public debt during the same year, and for the satisfying of other prior appropriations.

Judging from the returns heretofore received at the treasury, there is good ground to conclude that, that surplus, together with the abovementioned sum of six hundred thousand dollars, will be adequate to the object.

All which is humbly submitted.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON,
Secretary of the Treasury.

General Estimate for the Services of the ensuing Year.

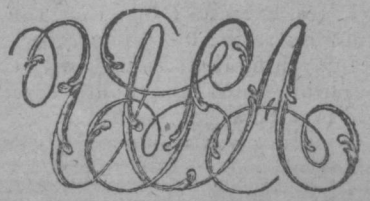
	Dols.	Cts.	Dols.	Cts.
For compensation to the president, vice-president, chief justice and associate judges,	51,500			
Ditto to the district judges,	21,300			
Members of the senate, house of representatives and their officers,	129,730			
Treasury department,	60,300			
Department of state,	6,000			
Department of war,	9,600			
Board of commissioners,	15,100			
Government of the western territory,	11,000			
Grant to baron Steuben,	2,500			
Pensions granted by the late government,	2,767.	73		
Incidental and contingent expenses of the civil list establishments,	20,555.	83		
			328,653.	56
EXTRAORDINARIES.				
For discharging certain liquidated claims on the United States,	117,626.	70		
To make good deficiencies in the civil list establishment,	49,043.	79		
Clerks of courts, jurors, witnesses, &c.	5,000			
Maintenance of light-houses and repairs,	16,000			
Keeping prisoners,	4,000			
Arranging the public securities,	2,450			
Purchase of hydrometers,	1,000			
Building and equipping ten cutters,	2,000			
			197,119.	49
WAR DEPARTMENT.				
Stated annual expences,	357,731.	61		
Annual allowance to invalids,	87,463.	60½		
For former deficient appropriations,	47,829.	84		
Indian department,	39,424.	71		
			532,449.	76½
Dollars,	1,058,222.	81½		

Treasury Department,
Register's Office, Nov. 4, 1791.

JOSEPH NOURSE, Register.

CANAL OF LANGUEDOC.

THE canal of Languedoc is the most stupendous work of art in Europe.—The project originated among the Romans who abandoned it as impracticable. Mons. Riquet began the enterprise in 1666, and completed it in 1680, surmounting every obstacle in a broken uneven country, carrying his works over and through mountains, and even removing rivers which lay in his way, by aqueducts. Where the canal is carried through mountains it is curiously arched over with free stone. Descending towards the ocean there are 15 locks, and towards the Mediterranean 45, as well as 47 aqueducts and 8 bridges. Near Beziers there are 10 locks which have a pretty effect down a descent of 936 feet, and 66 feet from the level above. This amazing work cost upwards of 2 millions of crowns, half of which was paid by the king. It communicates the Mediterranean with the Bay of Biscay, passing by Bourdeaux and Montpellier, being upwards of 150 miles in length, and of the utmost utility especially in time of war, as flats carrying 60 tons burthen keep up a safe and an easy inland water communication.



CONGRESS.

PHILADELPHIA.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

Debate on the Ratio of Representation.

MR. LAWRENCE had previously moved that until the next enumeration, the number of Representatives should be one for every thirty thousand persons.

Mr. Dayton had moved to strike out thirty be fore thousand—this amendment was under consideration.

Mr. Gerry observed, that in all the decisions of the legislature, we ought to follow as far as possible the opinion of the great body of the people.—If this opinion should be found to be against the ratio of thirty thousand, the amendment ought to be adopted; but if we refer to the amendments proposed by the conventions to the constitution, we shall find that five states were in favor of one representative to every thirty thousand persons, till the number should amount to two hundred. None of the propositions now moved as amendments to the motion of the gentleman from New-York, amount to that number—Several others of the conventions were of opinion that the representation was too small to secure the liberties of this country. This government, said he, is a government of representation; the people may controul their representatives, but their influence is small in respect to the senate and the executive, and still less over the officers of government—On what then do the people depend for checking encroachments, or preventing abuses? On their representatives—If these should be too few, or if they should fail them, they never can redress their grievances without having recourse to violence.—If the number is small, a majority may be the more easily corrupted—on the other hand, too large a number will be attended with difficulties; a medium then is most eligible.—An adequate number is absolutely necessary,—and to shew that one to thirty thousand would not produce more than an adequate number, he referred to the ratio of representation in England and France, in which there was a greater proportion of representatives than in the legislature of the United States.

It has been objected to an increase of representatives, that it would lead to encroachments on the part of the general government, over those of the individual governments—He tho't that the reverse of the objection was true, and instanced the opinion and plan of Gov. Hutchinson of Massachusetts, who proposed and advised a reduction of the representation of Massachusetts, as a necessary step in order to effect the designs of Great-Britain—decreasing the number, therefore, will be lessening in proportion the security of the liberties of the people.

He then adverted to the objection arising from the additional expence—but, he observed, after Congress shall have passed a few more of the most important acts, it is not probable that the public business will in future require that the sessions should be for more than four months annually—this would reduce the expence greatly, in the first instance; and agreeable to a calculation, an addition of 47 members to the present number, would make the aggregate expence but about one eighteenth part more than at present, supposing the sessions to be four months long—But he considered the objection on account of the expence as merely speculative.

Although Congress is not positively bound by the constitution to give one member for every thirty thousand inhabitants, yet he would ask, whether the citizens of the United States did not expect that this ratio would be adopted? and whether they would not consider it as an abuse of power, if Congress, instead of one to thirty thousand should settle the representation at one to forty thousand? Eight States have already adopted the first article of the proposed amendments to the constitution: and if the house should

The following was laid before the House of Representatives on the 7th inst. by the Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Nov. 4th, 1791.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith a Report to the House of Representatives, accompanying certain estimates of sums necessary to be appropriated for various objects therein specified, including the service of the year 1792.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, SIR,
Your most obedient, and humble servant,
ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

The Honorable JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esquire,
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The SECRETARY of the TREASURY
Respectfully Reports to the
HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
The ESTIMATES

Herewith transmitted, No. 1, 2, 3, 4