

19th CONGRESS,
1st Session.

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HO. OF REPS.
NAVY DEPT.

NAVAL AFFAIRS.

DOCUMENTS

RELATING TO

The Bill Concerning the Naval Establishment

OF

THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 13, 1826.

Laid before the House by the Chairman of the Committee, and referred to the Committee of the whole House, to which is committed the Bill concerning the Naval Establishment of the United States.

WASHINGTON:

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1826.

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS,

House of Representatives, Feb. 2d, 1826.

SIR: I have been directed, by the Committee on Naval Affairs, to request of the Department of the Navy, information on the following points, viz:

What is the highest amount of compensation paid to a Captain in the Navy, while in service: including allowances and emoluments of every description; and what are the particular items of such pay, allowances, and emoluments, and the respective amounts of such items?

What is the like amount to the Officers in service, below the rank of Captain?

What are the rules established, and acted upon, in relation to the pay, allowances, and emoluments to officers of the several grades in the Navy, while in service?

As the information is desired by the Committee on subjects immediately before them, and requiring their prompt attention, I would consider it a favor to be furnished with the information at an early hour.

I am, Sir, with great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

HENRY R. STORRS.

Hon. SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD,

Secretary of the Navy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

4th February, 1826.

SIR: Your letter of the 2d inst. has been received. I am not aware that I can furnish more minute information respecting the pay of the officers in the Navy, than has been repeatedly communicated to Congress, and is now to be found in the Documents on the tables of the members, and on the files of the House.

Permit me to beg your attention to those Documents, particularly to the following: The Recapitulation at the end of the Naval Register of 1826, a copy of which I enclose, and which shows all the pay and emoluments which officers, on active duty at sea, receive. The estimates for the year, which are annexed to, and printed with the Report to the President, at the commencement of the session, and which shew all the items allowed at all the Navy Yards and Stations; the Report to the Senate, of 1st January, 1825, and which shews the allowances in all other cases, except at Yards, and the principles on which they are made; and any, or all, the Annual Reports to Congress, for years past, respecting the contingent expenses. Every dollar received by any officer, for any object, will be found in those papers, and, as I have believed, detailed minutely, clearly, and distinctly. Their object was, expressly to communicate the information which you seek, with the wish that every member might have in his hands the amount of the allowances, and the principles on which they are made.

The laws of Congress, fixing the pay and rations of the officers, are to be found in the 2d volume Laws, page 385, and 5d volume, page 6. The recapitulation referred to, will be found to agree perfectly with those laws.

That I may present you *results* as far as practicable, I enclose paper A. which is a statement of the sums received by the several officers in active service, calculating the ration, as money, at twenty-five cents.

I also enclose a copy of the report and estimates of last year, which, as well as those of this year, detail all the allowances, at all the Navy Yards, and exhibit the highest amount in each case. It is not necessary to make a copy in writing, as it will be easier to examine the printed copy. When you can spare it, you will confer a favor by enclosing it to me.

The papers thus enclosed and referred to, furnish an answer to the two first inquiries in your letter. They state "the highest amount of *compensation* paid to a Captain," and all "other officers," while in service, "both on land and water;" including "allowances and emoluments of every description; and the particular items of the

pay, allowances, and emoluments, and the respective amount of such items." There is but one item which is not set down in money, although it is embraced in the amount—I mean wood. It is furnished to the officers in kind, not in money. The number of cords is therefore mentioned: but their estimated cost is included in the amount stated.

In answer to the third inquiry. I have the honor to state—

1st. That officers on active service at sea, and on leave of absence from such service, and awaiting orders, by direction of the Department, for such service, receive the full pay contained in paper A: The law shews the amount of their pay and rations; and no "rule" is necessary to be applied in ascertaining what it is, except that which determines the value of the ration, when it is received in money. This has, for many years, been fixed at twenty-five cents; and the reasons for valuing it at that sum, have more than once been presented to Congress, and especially in the Report from the Department, of the 12th February, 1821. While on ship-board they are provided by the Government with all the *quarters, fuel, candles, and servants*, which their situation requires; and, being subjected to no expense for these objects, no allowance is made for them. There is, therefore, no reason why they should receive any compensation beyond their pay and rations; and no "rule" gives them any.

2d. Officers on furlough receive half-pay, and no rations. The "rule" for this has been supposed to be fixed by the law itself. See *law 21st April, 1806.*

3d. There is active and very important employment for officers on shore, at Stations and Navy Yards—where, by their orders, they are compelled to remain, and are subjected to great expense; an expense to which other officers are not subjected, and which their pay would not meet. The principle, therefore, and rule of the Government, since the original establishment of the Navy, in such cases, has been, to make an allowance sufficient to pay such of these expenses as were indispensably and absolutely necessary, to enable them to do their duty. And the mode of estimating the allowances has been, to obtain the best information within the reach of the Department, of the cost of the article at the different places, and be guided by it. Thus, an officer is compelled, by the order of the Government, to remain stationary at Brooklyn, and daily to perform duty at the Navy Yard at that place. He must have *lodgings, candles, and firewood*, or he cannot obey the order; and if he have not servants to aid him in his labor, both public and private, he cannot constantly attend to his duty, and perform the services demanded of him. If he were obliged to procure them for himself, it would consume the whole of his pay; and no man but he who had a private fortune, and chose to bestow both it and his time upon the public, could remain in the Navy. An allowance for these things, therefore, has always been made; but this allowance is not intended, nor is it believed that there are any cases in which it operates as an emolument, or addition of pay, to the officer; but merely as a satisfaction of the expenses to which the order of the Government

has exposed him. Be good enough to look at the estimate for the year, for the Navy Yards, and you will at once perceive the operation of these principles.

House-rent is allowed where there are no quarters in the Yard for the officers to live in. It is computed as low as the circumstances of the place will permit. At Brooklyn, for the Commandant of the Yard, nothing, having a house—for the Master Commandant, when one is there, \$300—for the Lieutenant, \$200—and so on for the rest. See the estimate. See also the allowances at other Yards. It has heretofore been stated, that economy requires sufficient buildings at each of the Yards, to afford lodgings to the officers at it. This item of expenditure would not then be necessary. Wood is allowed to all officers so circumstanced, and is bought as low as the agents can buy it. At Brooklyn, we give the Commandant 30 cords—the Master Commandant 20—Lieutenant 20, &c. &c. See estimates for this and all the other Yards.

Candles allowed to a Captain, at Brooklyn, \$65—Master Commandant, \$40—Lieutenant, \$20, &c. &c. See estimates.

Servants—to the Captain, 3 at \$8, or 2 at \$12. The Master Commandant 2 at \$8. Lieutenant, 1 at \$8. These servants are mustered on the books of the Yard, and liable to be called on for its protection, &c. in case of necessity. These several allowances are *all*; and are believed to be barely sufficient to pay for their objects, and to save the officer from actual loss in obeying his orders. These places and stations are sought, not for the purpose of making money, but as a change of duty, and to enable the officer to spend a part of his time with or near his family and private interests. Their amount is expressly stated in the estimates of the last and present year.

These allowances being made, increase the annual cost of the Naval Establishment; and, with a view to as much economy as can be obtained on the subject, as few officers are now placed at the Yards, as the duties to be performed will admit. Indeed, I believe the impression is almost universal with those who have to do the duties, that too few are assigned to them; and they have as much to do as they can well perform. If it were not for the necessary increase of expense, more would be added, to make their labors less. I again refer to the estimates of the present year, to shew the *numbers* and *grade* of officers at each Yard. There are *no other allowances* at Yards and Stations.

By the item in the appropriation bills which enumerates certain contingent expenses, it will be perceived that some other payments are sometimes made to officers, such as travelling expenses, at fifteen cents per mile, &c. &c. It is unnecessary, I presume, to repeat them, or the principles on which they are made. They will be instantly understood, on an inspection of the estimates, of the appropriation bill, and of the report of the 1st January, 1825, heretofore referred to.

I am, very respectfully, &c.

SAM. I. SOUTHARD.

Hon. HENRY R. STORRS,

Chairman Naval Committee, II. of R.

A.

PAY of Commissioned and Warranted Officers, on Active Duty.

Captain, commanding a squadron, \$100 per month, and 16 rations per day—all rations, when paid in money, are estimated at 25 cents each - - -	\$2,660 00
Captain in command of a ship of 32 guns, and upwards, \$100 per month, and 8 rations per day - -	1,930 30
Captain commanding a vessel of 20, and under 32 guns, \$75 per month, and 6 rations per day - -	1,447 50
Master Commandant, \$60 per month, and 5 rations per day - - - - -	1,176 25
Lieutenant Commanding, \$50 per month, and 4 rations per day - - - - -	965 00
Lieutenant, \$40 per month, and 3 rations per day -	753 75
Midshipman, \$19 per month, and 1 ration per day -	319 25
Chaplain, \$40 per month, and 2 rations per day -	662 50
Surgeon, \$50 per month, and 2 rations per day -	782 50
Surgeons' Mate, \$30 per month, and 2 rations per day -	542 50
Sailing Master, \$40 per month, and 2 rations per day -	662 50
Purser, \$40 per month, and 2 rations per day -	662 50
Boatswain, \$20 per month, and 2 rations per day -	422 50
Gunner, \$20 per month, and 2 rations per day -	422 50
Sailmaker, \$20 per month, and 2 rations per day -	422 50
Carpenter, \$20 per month, and 2 rations per day -	422 50