

REPORT

OF

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

WITH

A PLAN FOR A NAVAL PEACE ESTABLISHMENT

OF THE

UNITED STATES.

(In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, of the 28th February, 1827.)

JANUARY 15, 1828.

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REPORT.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

19th January, 1828.

SIR: In answer to a resolution of the Senate of the 26th February, 1827, directing the Secretary of the Navy "to report a Plan for a Naval Peace Establishment for the United States," paper A, containing the plan called for, is respectfully presented. It is not accompanied with comments, but reference is made to the views expressed in former reports from this Department on the subject; particularly to those of 24th January, 1824, and 1st January, 1825.

It will be perceived that the present varies in some points from the plans heretofore proposed, and which did not meet the approbation of Congress. The changes, it is hoped, will be found satisfactory. The intention has been to embrace only those objects supposed to be indispensable, and to make the whole plain and simple in its provisions; some of which are suggested by experience, and others are now in operation under the orders of the Department; it would be better to give them legislative sanction.

In connexion with this plan, and as an essential part of it, paper B is presented. An examination of our statutes will exhibit great confusion and important omissions on the subject of pay. Several principles have governed in framing this part of the plan.

1st. To regard the decisions of Congress in the other branch of the public service as the safest and best guide; under the impression that what Congress had sanctioned for the army would meet approbation when applied to the navy. The situation and services of the latter being such as to justify equality with the former. The pay here proposed will be found in no instance to exceed, and in almost all to fall short of that given to the relative grade of army officers.

2d. To increase the pay after ten years faithful services in the same rank. In the army there is an increase of rank by brevet, which uniformly induces a proportionate increase of pay.

3d. To add to the pay while at sea, both as an inducement to active service, and to meet the expenses which a separation from their families always creates with officers of the navy; an evil to which those of the army are less subjected. This increase is only in the number of rations.

4th. To take away all emoluments and allowances, as far as practicable, and to give, in all cases, both on land and at sea, definite and ascertained compensation for the performance of duty.

Under the direction in the other resolution of the same date, the Secretary of the Navy has the honor to present paper C, containing a body of regulations relating to offences, trials and punishments. A comparison of them with the law now in force, "for the better government of the Navy," will exhibit the changes proposed in that law. For the views of the Department on this subject, reference is made to the paper C, and to the report dated 1st January, 1825.

The Secretary of the Navy would think it his duty, under these resolutions, to present a plan for establishing a Naval School, if a bill for that object had not been under consideration, and passed the Senate at the last session; and, if he is correctly informed, is again under consideration. It is respectfully suggested that no plan for a naval establishment, and no regulations can be perfect, unless a Naval School forms a part of them

Some legal provisions would be useful, in relation to the disbursements made for the Navy, but that subject does not seem to be embraced within the scope of these resolutions.

A new body of rules and regulations has been recently prepared, under the law of 7th February, 1815, but has not been approved and promulgated, under the hope that important changes in the naval establishment would be made during the present session, which would render alterations in them expedient.

If it should be the will of Congress to sanction the proposed plans and regulations, proper rules should be prescribed by the President: and a law passed, regulating the disbursement of the public moneys by the official agents, it is most confidently believed, that efficiency and economy would be greatly promoted.

Respectfully submitted.

SAM'L. L. SOUTHARD.

The PRESIDENT *of the Senate*
of the United States.

(A.)

NAVAL ESTABLISHMENT.

- 1st. To consist of
- 1 Vice Admiral.
 - 2 Rear Admirals.
 - 6 Commodores.
 - 35 Captains.
 - 35 Masters & Commandants.
 - 300 Lieutenants.
 - 60 Surgeons.
 - 70 Surgeons Mates.
 - 50 Pursers.
 - 12 Chaplains.
 - 30 Sailing-Masters.
 - 500 Masters Mates and Midshipmen.
 - 35 Boatswains.
 - 35 Gunners.
 - 35 Carpenters.
 - 35 Sail Makers.
 - 7 Navy Store-keepers.
- 2d. The relative rank of Officers of the Navy with those of the Army to be:
- Vice-Admiral, with Major General.
 - Rear Admiral, with Brigadier General.
 - Commodore in actual command, with Brigadier General.
 - Captains of 5 years, with Colonels.
 - Under 5 years, with Lieutenant Colonels.
 - Master Commandants, with Majors.
 - Lieutenants, with Captains.
 - Passed Midshipmen, with Lieutenants.
- Provided that no right to command each other, shall arise from the relative rank so arranged between the officers of the army and navy.
- 3d. The President to fix, by regulation, the number and pay of the petty officers, seamen, ordinary seamen, and others, attached to the several vessels in commission, and to navy yards and stations according as the necessity of the public service may require.
4. The ships of the navy to be classed as follows:
- 1st Rate, 3 deckers, mounting 100 guns and upwards.
 - 2d Rate, 1st Class, 2 deckers, mounting 74 and under 100 guns.
 - 2d Class, 2 deckers, mounting 74 and under 90 guns.
 - 3d Rate, 1st Class, Frigates, mounting 54 and under 64 guns.
 - 2d Class, Frigates, mounting 40 and under 54 guns.
 - 4th Rate, 1st Class, Sloops, mounting 24 guns and upwards.
 - 2d Class, Sloops, mounting 18 guns and under 24.
 - 5th Rate, Brigs and Schooners.

5. Sailing masters, boatswains, gunners, carpenters, and sail makers, to be ranked in three grades or classes: the first for service in vessels of the 1st and 2d rate; the second in vessels of the 3d rate; and the third in vessels of the 4th and 5th rate.

6. The President is authorized by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, when the necessity of the service require it, to increase the number of each grade of officers, not to exceed one-fifth of the respective numbers mentioned in the first section.

7. Master's mates, midshipmen, boatswains, gunners, carpenters, and sail makers, shall be appointed by warrant from the President of the United States.

8. Masters and commandants not to be promoted until they have served at sea, as such, for two years.

9. Lieutenants, before promotion, to perform active duty at sea for three years, and submit to an examination of their qualifications and fitness to perform the duties of master commandants, under regulations to be prescribed by direction of the Secretary of the Navy.

10. No person to be appointed an assistant surgeon, who has not been examined by a board of navy surgeons, constituted by the Secretary of the Navy, for that purpose.

11. No person to be promoted to the office of surgeon, who shall not have performed service for two years, at least, on board a public vessel of the United States, and been examined by a board of navy surgeons, constituted by the Secretary of the Navy for that purpose.

12. The President to designate and appoint, when necessary, surgeons of the fleets or squadrons, and purveyors of medicine, and prescribe their compensation and duties.

13. Midshipmen, of the age of 20 years, who have been five years in the service, and have served three years at sea, two and a half of which in an armed vessel of the United States, to be entitled to an examination, at such time as the President shall designate, and the convenience of the service will permit, by a board of officers, of a rank not less than captain, nor in number less than three, to be appointed for that purpose.

14. Midshipmen, who have passed the examination, and been found qualified for promotion, to receive warrants as such, and may be appointed to perform the duties of sailing master of the second and third class.

15. Vessels of the 1st, 2d, and 3d rate, to be commanded by officers of a grade not less than captains. Vessels of the 4th rate by masters and commandants; of the 5th rate by lieutenants, who shall, while in actual command, be styled lieutenants commanding.

16. The President to fix the component parts and amount for the ration, not to exceed, in price, twenty five cents.

17. The Navy Yards authorized by law, to be Portsmouth, N. H. Charlestown, Mass. New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Gosport, Va. Pensacola; and the President to designate such Navy Stations as the circumstances may require.

18. The law of 27th March, 1804, to be repealed, and the Navy Yard at Washington placed under the same regulations as the other Yards.

19. The President to employ such and so many of the vessels as he may believe the public interest requires, provided that more officers, seamen, &c. be not employed, nor a greater sum expended, than is authorized by law.

20. A teacher shall be appointed to each vessel of the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th rate, whose duty it shall be to give instructions, under the direction of the commander of the vessel, to midshipmen and others.

21. The President of the United States to cause to be prepared regulations for the duties, powers, and conduct, of the several officers of the Navy, which, when approved by him, shall be laid before Congress at their next session.

(B.)

Plan of Law for pay of the Navy.

1st. The following to be the pay of the several Officers attached to the Navy.

Vice Admiral		\$200	per month, and 20	rations per day.
Rear Admiral		170	do.	16 do.
Commodore		140	do.	12 do.
Captain		100	do.	8 do.
Ditto of 10 years		110	do.	9 do.
Ditto 15		120	do.	10 do.
Master Commandant		60	do.	5 do.
Ditto of 10 years		70	do.	6 do.
Ditto 15		80	do.	7 do.
Lieutenants		40	do.	3 do.
Ditto of 10 years		45	do.	4 do.
Ditto 15		50	do.	5 do.
Surgeons		60	do.	2 do.
Ditto of 10 years		80	do.	3 do.
Ditto 15		90	do.	5 do.
Assistant Surgeons		40	do.	2 do.
Ditto of 10 years		45	do.	3 do.
Ditto 15		50	do.	4 do.
Pursers		40	do.	2 do.
Chaplains		50	do.	3 do.
Midshipmen		25	do.	1 do.
Passed do.		30	do.	2 do.
Sailing Master, 3 grade	40	do.	2	do.
Ditto	2 45	do.	3	do.
Ditto	1 50	do.	4	do.
Boatswain, 3 grade	20	do.	2	do.
Ditto	2 30	do.	3	do.
Ditto	1 40	do.	4	do.
Gunners, 3 grade	20	do.	2	do.
Ditto	2 30	do.	3	do.
Ditto	1 40	do.	4	do.
Carpenters, 3 grade	20	do.	2	do.
Ditto	2 30	do.	3	do.
Ditto	1 40	do.	4	do.
Sailmakers, 3 grade	20	do.	2	do.
Ditto	2 25	do.	3	do.
Ditto	1 30	do.	3	do.
Master's Mates	25	do.	2	do.

Provided that no officer who is required to pass an examination before he is promoted, shall, in any case, receive the increased pay, unless he shall, at the proper time, present himself for examination, and be declared fit for promotion.

2d. Admirals, commodores, captains, master commandants, lieutenants commanding, first lieutenants, surgeons, sailing masters, boatswains, gunners, carpenters, and sail makers, engaged in active service at sea, to receive double rations. Other officers on sea service, an addition of one half to the amount of rations to which they are respectively entitled.

3d. Captains and officers of higher grade travelling under orders on public duty, to receive 20 cents per mile; other commissioned officers 15 cents per mile; warrant officers 12 cents per mile.

4th. Officers attached to Navy Yards to receive in lieu of all compensation, except for pay, rations, and quarters, as follows:

Captains	-	\$1 50 per day
Master Commandants	-	1 00 do.
Lieutenants and Surgeons		75 do.
Other commissioned Officers		62½ do.
Warrant Officers	-	50 do.

5th. Commanding officers of stations, the same pay and emolument as those of similar rank attached to navy yards.

6th. Pay of officers on furlough who shall fail to report at the expiration of the furlough, shall cease.

7th. Officers performing the duties of any grade higher than their own, to receive the pay and emoluments of the rank next above them.

8th. Furlough pay to be one half the amount of full pay, including rations.

9th. The Secretary of the Navy authorized to place officers on furlough pay, when their services are not required.

10th. Whenever petty officers, seamen, or ordinary seamen, are sent from a ship in commission, on the requisition of a commanding officer of a yard or station, to do duty in such yard or station, other than the vessel to which they belong, each petty officer shall be entitled to, and shall receive eighteen cents, and each seaman and ordinary seaman twelve cents for each and every day in which he may be so employed.

11th. The pay of deserters to be forfeited and carried to the Naval Hospital Fund; also fines imposed on all persons in the service.

12th. The pay of officers at recruiting stations, and of receiving ships, to be the same as officers of their grade at navy yards, but no premiums for enlistment to be allowed.

13th. Officers on special duty, to have pay fixed by the Secretary of the Navy, not to exceed the highest rate of pay and emoluments of officers of the same grade when at sea.

14th. The pay of store-keepers to be fixed by the President, having regard to their responsibilities and labors.

Acts at variance with this act, to be repealed.