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Clerks – Executive departments (to accompany bill H. R. no. 836).

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CLERKS—EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 886.]

JANUARY 27, 1837.

Mr. C. JOHNSON, from the Committee of Ways and Means, to which the subject had been referred, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Ways and Means, to which were referred the several memorials from the clerks in the departments at Washington, asking increased compensation, report :

That, at the last session, a bill was reported from this committee increasing the compensation of the clerks in the several departments. During that session a bill was acted on by the House, regulating the pay of the clerks in the Post Office Department, adopting different grades of salaries from those reported in the bill from this committee; presuming that similar salaries to those in the Post Office Department should be allowed to the clerks in the other departments, a letter was addressed to the secretaries, asking them for a statement of the compensation that should be allowed their clerks, to place them upon a footing of equality with the clerks in the Post Office Department, as regulated by the law of the last session. The replies to this inquiry accompany this report. In many instances the committee did not think it advisable to adopt the recommendations of the heads of bureaus. The tables which accompany this report will show the present number of clerks; the compensation now allowed them by law; the compensation recommended by the secretaries and heads of bureaus; the compensation which the committee recommend for the adoption of the House; and the increased expenditure which will be produced. The whole increased expenditure will be,

In the State Department	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,500
In the Treasury Department	-	-	-	-	-	32,200
In the War Department	-	-	-	-	-	11,650
In the Navy Department	-	-	-	-	-	2,850

which will be divided in the Treasury Department between two hundred and twenty-one clerks; in the War Department between seventy-three clerks; in the Navy Department between sixteen clerks; and in the State Department between twenty-two clerks.

The compensation allowed to most of clerks was regulated by the act of the 20th of April, 1818; the increased price, since that time, of every necessary article, in the opinion of the committee, requires a revision of the law regulating it, and would justify even a greater increase than that proposed in the bill.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
February 18, 1836.

SIR : In answer to your letter of the 5th instant, I have the honor to inform you that no additional clerks are wanted for the office of the Secretary of State, but that an increase of salary for some of those now employed is deemed necessary, as well to afford a reasonable compensation for their services, as to produce an equality of compensation among those who perform similar and equal duties.

The inadequateness of the salary of the chief clerk, considering the importance of the trust confided to him, and the qualifications necessary to its proper discharge, has been brought to the notice of former committees. I enclose, for your information, copies of communications on that subject from my immediate predecessor and myself. At the first session of the last Congress the Committee of Ways and Means inserted, in the appropriation bill, an additional compensation to the chief clerk, of \$500 per annum. This was withdrawn by the committee, under the belief, it is understood, that this mode of raising salaries was irregular, and that it would be proper to authorize the increased compensation by a special law. I beg leave now, respectfully, to recommend the increase then proposed by the committee.

The clerks employed in the diplomatic bureau are three, at salaries of \$1,600, \$1,500, and \$1,400, respectively. Their duties are arranged and distributed solely with a view to equalize their labors; those of one clerk not being considered as more important and laborious than those of another. The salaries should therefore be equal. And, as the highest is but a moderate compensation for the service, I submit that two salaries of \$1,600 be substituted for the one at \$1,500, and one at \$1,400.

The clerks employed in the consular bureau are three; two of whom receive salaries of \$1,400, and one a salary of \$1,000. The same remarks are applicable to those, in regard to their duties; as to those in the diplomatic bureau; and for the same reasons I submit, as just and equitable, that they all be placed at equal salaries, a salary of \$1,400 being deemed but a reasonable compensation for the services performed.

The home bureau consists of four clerks; two at \$1,400, one at \$900, and one at \$800. These two last mentioned salaries are insufficient, either as a support for those employed, or as a compensation for their services. I have, on a former occasion, recommended that they be increased to \$1,000 each; and I beg leave, now, to renew the recommendation. A copy of my former letter is enclosed.

No change is proposed in the salary of the clerk employed as keeper of the archives, which is \$1,400.

The clerk employed as translator and librarian receives a compensation of \$1,600, of which \$600 are authorized only by the annual appropriation acts. It is submitted, that the salary for the translating clerk be increased, by law, to \$1,500.

The clerk employed as disbursing agent receives a compensation of \$1,450, of which \$300 are authorized only by the annual appropriation acts. It is submitted that the salary be increased to \$1,450, by general law. Copies of the letters from the department, upon which the additional allowances to the two last mentioned clerks were made, are enclosed.

As inquiries are now on foot, with reference to a change in the Patent

Office, the clerkships in that office are not brought into view in this communication.

If the additions, which I have deemed it my duty to submit to you, be approved, the clerkships in the office of the Secretary of State (not including the Patent Office) will be as follows :

Chief clerk, employed under the act of July 27, 1789, \$7,500 ;

Four clerks at \$1,600 each ;

Six clerks at \$1,400 each ;

One clerk at \$1,450 ;

Two clerks at \$1,000.

The number being the same as now authorized by law.

I transmit, for the more particular information of the committee, a copy of the arrangement of the business assigned to the several clerks in the department.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

The Hon. CAVE JOHNSON,

Committee of Ways and Means.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, January 26, 1837.

SIR: Application having been made in behalf of the Committee of Ways and Means for a copy of the letter which I addressed to you on the 18th of February last, respecting the salaries of the clerks in this department, I now enclose it, together with a copy of the regulations assigning to the various clerks their respective duties. In regard to this letter, it is proper to remark, that it was written principally with a view to the equalization of the salaries of the clerks in this department who were engaged in similar duties, and not in reference to a general increase of salaries throughout the executive departments, which has since been recommended by the committee, and to effect which a bill was reported to the House of Representatives in May last. I would not have it inferred, therefore, from the letter alluded to, that I think any further increase of compensation than was at that time proposed not called for by the changes in the expenses of living in the District. In any new arrangement which the committee may contemplate, it is presumed that the apportionment will be made with due reference to the character of the duties to be performed, and the qualifications they require. It will be seen by the regulations, a copy of which accompanies this letter, that none of the clerks employed in this department are employed as mere copyists ; but that they all have other and more important services assigned to them. The clerks of the diplomatic bureau, especially, are charged with duties in a high degree arduous, responsible, and confidential, which require for their proper discharge superior education and talents, with the strictest integrity. Both justice and public policy demand that their compensation should be in proportion to these requirements ; and I earnestly recommend that they should be placed upon a footing at least with the chief clerks of bureaus in the other departments, and with the principal clerks in the Land Office. From the character of the services performed by the other clerks, it is

thought reasonable that the lowest salary should not be less than \$1,200 : the allowance of which would appear to be justified by the scale observed in the adjustment at the last session of the salaries in the Land and Post Offices. With this view, the clerks of this department should be divided, in respect to compensation, into four grades; the second of which should be upon an equality with the chief clerks of bureaus, and the principal clerks of the Land Office, and that they should be arranged in the following manner :

One of the first grade.

Three of the second grade.

Seven of the third grade.

Two of the fourth grade.

The salary of the translator, which is now \$1,600, should also be increased.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

The Hon. CAVE JOHNSON.

State Department.

Number.	Present salary.	Proposed salary.	Increase.
1 at	\$2,000 00	\$2,200 00	\$200 00
4 "	1,600 00	1,800 00	800 00
5 "	1,400 00	1,600 00	1,000 00
2 "	{ 1 1,200 00 }	1,400 00	450 00
	{ 1 1,150 00 }		
2 "	{ 1 900 00 }	1,200 00	700 00
	{ 1 800 00 }		
14			<u>\$3,150 00</u>

Patent Office.

Number.	Pres't salary.	Proposed salary.	Increase.
1 at	\$1,700 00	\$1,800 00	\$100 00
1 "	1,500 00	1,600 00	100 00
1 "	1,200 00	1,400 00	200 00
2 "	1,200 00	1,200 00	
1 "	1,000 00	1,000 00	
2 "	1,250 00 machinist and draughtsman,	1,250 00	
8			<u>\$400 00</u>

RECAPITULATION.

	Number.	Pres't salary.	Proposed salary.	Increase.
In the office of Secretary,	14	\$19,450	\$22,600	\$3,150
In the Patent Office	8	10,250	10,600	350
	<u>22</u>	<u>\$29,700</u>	<u>\$33,200</u>	<u>\$3,500</u>

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
January 10, 1837.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that the heads of the several offices (excepting the Auditor of the Post Office Department,) were called on for reports as to the clerks in their respective offices, grading their salaries upon the principles established by the act for the reorganization of the Post Office Department. Those reports have been received from all, excepting the Commissioner of the General Land Office, and are herewith transmitted for the favorable consideration of the committee.

As to the clerks in my own office, their salaries, as at present provided for by law, are as follows:

One chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000 00
Three clerks, each	-	-	-	-	-	1,600 00
Four clerks, each	-	-	-	-	-	1,400 00
Two clerks, each	-	-	-	-	-	1,150 00
Four clerks, each	-	-	-	-	-	1,000 00

It will be perceived that the grades of clerks in my own office, as well as in the offices of the Secretaries of State, War, and Navy, are different from those in the subordinate bureaus; it being deemed necessary to employ in the executive offices persons on whom would devolve important duties of a highly responsible character; and, consequently, salaries of a higher grade were allowed by law, no doubt for the purpose of securing the services of competent persons: to such were allowed \$1,600.

In strict compliance with the request contained in your letter, I should be compelled to merge those clerks with those now receiving \$1,400; yet I would suggest to the committee the propriety of still retaining a higher grade of clerks in the executive offices than are employed in the subordinate bureaus.

It may deserve consideration; whether the chief clerk in this and all the departments should not be placed on an equality corresponding in some degree with the Assistant Postmasters General, and be required to have charge of, and be responsible for, the records and files of the office; and, moreover, be required officially to discharge the duties of the head of the department, in case of his absence or sickness.

If these views, as to my own clerks, be approved, their salaries would then be—

One chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,500 00
Three clerks, each	-	-	-	-	-	1,800 00
Four clerks, each	-	-	-	-	-	1,600 00
Two clerks, each	-	-	-	-	-	1,400 00
Four clerks, each	-	-	-	-	-	1,200 00

Accompanying this is a tabular statement, prepared on this communication and the accompanying reports.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. C. JOHNSON,
Committee of Ways and Means, H. R.

Office of the Secretary of the Treasury

	Salaries proposed.	Salaries allowed.
One chief clerk - - -	\$2,500 00	\$2,000 00
Three clerks, each - - -	1,800 00	1,600 00
Four clerks, each - - -	1,600 00	1,400 00
Two clerks, each - - -	1,400 00	1,150 00
Four clerks, each - - -	1,200 00	1,000 00
Fourteen clerks - - -	21,900 00	18,700 00
		21,900 00
	Proposed increase -	\$3,200 00

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
First Comptroller's Office, January 3, 1837.

SIR: In the communication addressed to you, under date of the 29th ultimo, by the Hon. C. Johnson, of the Committee of Ways and Means, a copy of which has been referred to this office for a report in relation to the clerks employed in it, he requested that there should be prepared a statement of the clerks in the Treasury Department, and of the salaries they ought to have, so as to place them upon a footing of equality with the clerks in the Post Office Department, as regulated at the last session of Congress.

In compliance with this reference, I have the honor to subjoin hereto the names of the clerks in this office, the salaries they now receive, and the salaries which would place them, in this respect, on an equality with the clerks in the General Post Office Department.

Taking into consideration the enhanced prices of all the necessaries of life, I think I am justified in saying that the salaries of the messenger and assistant messenger in this office are inadequate to the support of themselves and families, and I have therefore taken the liberty to include them in this report, from a conviction that their case is equally entitled to consideration and relief.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE WOLF,

Comptroller.

Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Names of the clerks employed in the First Comptroller's Office, the salaries they now receive, and the salaries which would place them on an equality with the clerks in the General Post Office Department.

Names.	Salaries now received.	Salaries according to rates in the Gen. P. O. Depart'm't.
John Laub, chief clerk	\$1,700	\$2,000
William Williamson, clerk	1,400	1,600
Lund Washington do.	1,400	1,600
James Larned do.	1,400	1,600
William Anderson do.	1,400	1,600
Richard S. Briscoe do.	1,150	1,400
Thomas F. Anderson do.	1,150	1,400
Nicholas B. Vanzandt do.	1,150	1,400
George Wood do.	1,150	1,400
Thomas Feran do.	1,150	1,400
George Johnson do.	1,000	1,200
James M. Burke do.	1,000	1,200
James R. McCorkle do.	1,000	1,200
William Miller do.	1,000	1,200
William Handy do.	1,000	1,200
John N. Lovejoy, messenger	700	750
Jacob Hines, assistant messenger	550	650

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Second Comptroller's Office, January 2, 1837.

SIR: In reply to your communication of the 31st ultimo, relative to the salaries of the clerks in the office of the Second Comptroller, I beg leave to state, that the great amount of business accumulating in this office requires the most assiduous attention of each of the clerks now employed. When it is recollected that the expenditure of every dollar appropriated for the support of the army, the navy, for the pensioners, for the purposes of internal improvement, as also for annuities to the Indians, removal of Indians, and the claims growing out of Indian treaties, is accounted for through this office, and that every account and every voucher is to be critically examined, it will at once be perceived that the force now by law authorized is insufficient, even in ordinary times, to keep pace with the current business. Much more is it inadequate at the present time, in consequence of the increased amount of business arising from the numerous irregular accounts and disbursements growing out of the operations of the militia called into service for the suppression of Indian hostilities. Many of the accounts for that service must remain unadjusted, unless this office can be supplied with additional force.

The clerks are and will be required to give a strict observance to the duties of their respective stations; and a diligent employment of the time appropriated to public business is particularly enjoined. No one will be

recommended for appointment, or continued in employment, who is believed, or found, to be unwilling to give practical evidence of diligence and fidelity.

Each of the clerks in this office has a family, for whose support some of the salaries are manifestly insufficient; and I have already been notified by one to whom very important duties have been intrusted, which have been discharged with commendable fidelity, that, in consequence of the inadequacy of his salary, he has concluded to accept the offer of a more eligible situation in one of the northern cities, and shall resign at the close of the present quarter. The loss of such a clerk cannot be readily repaired. It requires much time to become familiar with the principles and details of the business, as well as the various laws and regulations applicable to the diversified claims presented for adjustment; and when a gentleman of competent talents, good and industrious habits, who is willing to devote his undivided attention to the business assigned him, has become thus qualified, it is believed to be for the interest of the Government to allow him such a reasonable compensation as will insure a continuance of his services.

Under these impressions, I have been favorably disposed toward the request of the clerks in this office to be placed on an equal footing, as it regards salary, with the clerks in the Post Office Department, believing that the duties of the former are as important as those of the latter, and require as high degree of intelligence, and as close application. I am of opinion that, in order to effect this equality, having regard to the nature and importance of the services required, the salaries of the clerks in this office should be graduated as follows:

One chief clerk at	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
Four clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
Two clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
One clerk at	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

I would also add, that, in my judgment, the messenger of this office ought to receive the same compensation for his services as is allowed to the messenger in the office of the Auditor of the Post Office Department.

I remain, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ALBION K. PARRIS.

Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
First Auditor's Office, January 21, 1837.

SIR: In reply to the letter of the honorable C. Johnson, of the House of Representatives, on the subject of the salaries of the clerks in the Treasury Department, and which you referred to me for a report as to those in this office, I beg leave to state that there is allowed to this office, by the act of the 20th April, 1818, vol. 6, page 7, of the laws,

1 chief clerk at a salary of	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,700
2 clerks do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
6 do. do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,150
3 do. do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
1 do. do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	800

By the act of the last session of Congress re-organizing the General Post Office and creating an Auditor for that department, I find there is allowed to the Auditor's office,

1 chief clerk at a salary of	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
4 principal clerks do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
10 clerks do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
20 do. do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
8 do. do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,000

The following increase to the salaries allowed to the clerks in this office, keeping up the same number of grades that now exist, would seem to assimilate them to the clerks in the office of the Auditor of the Post Office Department, to wit:

1 chief clerk at a salary of	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
2 principal clerks do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
6 clerks do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
3 do. do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
1 do. do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,000

I deem it proper, however, to remark, that those clerks who are employed in the examination of the custom-house accounts, perform as responsible duties, requiring as much care and labor in the investigation, as any other connected, so far as I am capable of judging, with the department. They now receive but \$1,150, and would receive under the proposed increase but \$1,400. I would, therefore, recommend four of the six above named to be placed at \$1,500 per annum. The clerks in this office intrusted with the customs, may be said to form the only check upon the collectors and other custom-house officers. As from the immense mass of papers, abstracts, vouchers, &c., it is a matter totally impracticable for the Auditor or the Comptroller to investigate them in detail, or to know much about them, except what may be brought to their notice by the examining clerks, upon the fidelity and faithful performance of duty by these clerks the Government has to depend for the detection of all frauds or malpractices that may exist, or be attempted in this important branch of the revenue.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

J. MILLER.

Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Second Auditor's Office, January 2, 1837.

SIR: I know not how I can more satisfactorily meet the desire of the honorable C. Johnson, as expressed in his letter to you of the 29th ultimo, a copy of which you have furnished me with, than by reference to the communication I had the honor to make you on the subject of the salaries of the clerks of this office, the 28th of April of the last year.

The only departure I would recommend from that statement is in the

salary of the chief clerk, which I would wish placed on the same footing with the clerk of like grade in the office of the Auditor of the Post Office Department.

I have the honor to be,
Respectfully, sir,
Your obedient servant,

W. B. LEWIS.

HON. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Second Auditor's Office, April 28, 1836.

SIR: In reporting, agreeably to your request, on the resolution of the Senate of the United States, of the 25th instant, respecting the justice and propriety of increasing the compensation of the clerks in the several departments, I have the honor to remark, that having for some time past been impressed with the belief that the salaries generally, as regulated by the act of Congress of the 20th April, 1818, are now wholly inadequate to the decent support of a family in this place, I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion that the increased expense of living would fully authorize the following augmentation:

The chief clerk from \$1,700 to \$1,800 per annum.

The two clerks now receiving \$1,400 a year, to \$1,600 each.

The six clerks now receiving \$1,150 per annum, to \$1,400 each.

The five clerks now receiving \$1,000 per annum, to \$1,200 each.

The clerk now receiving \$800 a year, to \$1,000.

Thus constituting a difference of \$200 between each grade, and requiring an additional appropriation for this office of \$3,200 a year.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

W. B. LEWIS.

HON. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Third Auditor's Office, December 31, 1836.

SIR: I have had the honor of receiving the copy of the letter of the Hon. C. Johnson, addressed to you on the 29th instant, and referred by you to me for a report as to the clerks in this office.

Mr. Johnson in his letter requests a "statement of the clerks in the Treasury Department, and the salaries they ought to have, so as to make them upon a footing of equality with the clerks in the Post Office Department, as regulated at the last session of Congress." I have accordingly the honor to report the number of clerks now employed in this office, and the salaries which they ought to have, so as to make them upon a footing of equality with the clerks in the Post Office Department, as provided for by the forty-fourth section of the "Act to change the organization of the Post Office Department," approved 2d July, 1836; to be as follows:

One chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
Six principal clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
Nine clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
Three clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
Three clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

PETER HAGNER,

Auditor.

HON. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Fourth Auditor's Office, January 2, 1837,

SIR: Upon the letter of the Hon. Cave Johnson, asking for a "statement of the clerks of the Treasury Department, and the salaries they ought to have," referred by you to this office on the 31st ultimo, I have the honor to report as follows:

There are fifteen clerks allowed by law to this office; and to "make them on a footing of equality with the clerks in the Post Office Department," as the object appears to be, their salaries, in my opinion, might be arranged as follows:

The chief clerk, two thousand dollars per annum;

Five clerks at sixteen hundred dollars each;

Three clerks at fourteen hundred dollars each;

Three clerks at twelve hundred dollars each; and

Three clerks at one thousand dollars each.

This statement provides for a large proportion of salaries at \$1,600, but when the labors and responsibilities devolving on those who fill the situations, with which they are intended to correspond are considered, they are not too numerous.

I have stated, heretofore, that the number of clerks in this office might be reduced to thirteen, without any prejudice to the public interest. This was upon the supposition that the business to be transacted would not be materially increased. But should the appropriations for naval purposes be much larger than usual, it would be expedient, perhaps, not to reduce the number. I should not employ a greater number of the fifteen than would be absolutely necessary to despatch the business of the office.

I do not intend this remark to prejudice the application of the Second Comptroller for two additional clerks, which has been based in part upon the presumption that two clerkships might be dispensed with in this office.

I have the honor, sir,

To be, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. PICKETT.

HON. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Fifth Auditor's Office, December 31, 1836.

SIR: In reply to the letter of the Hon. C. Johnson of the 29th instant, which you referred to me, I have the honor to state that there are employed in this office,

One chief clerk, at a salary of	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,700
Two clerks, do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
Four clerks, do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,150

And that I respectfully recommend that, hereafter, they be classed and paid as follows, viz:

One chief clerk, at a salary of	--	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
Three clerks, do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
Three clerks, do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,400

Being similar to the salaries allowed to the first three classes, by the law for reorganizing the Post Office Department, in the office of Auditor.

Very respectfully, I am sir,

Your most obedient servant,

S. PLEASANTON.

The Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY OF THE UNITED STATES,
December 31, 1836.

SIR: In reply to the communication of the Hon. Cave Johnson of the 29th instant, referred by you to this office, I have the honor to report, that, in order to place this office on a footing, as to the compensation of its clerks and messenger, with the office of the Auditor of the Post Office Department, it will be necessary to allow

One salary at	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
Two do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
Two do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
Two do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
One do.	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
One messenger	-	-	-	-	-	750

But, as the individual occupying the station of messenger in my office is frequently required to officiate as a clerk, and has been so required for many years past, besides that all our communications with the bank are made through him, thus increasing the responsibilities of his duties, I consider it but just to fix the rate of his compensation above that of a mere messenger.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN CAMPBELL,
Treasurer United States.

To the Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Register's Office, January 2, 1837.

SIR : In compliance with your reference to me of the letter of the Hon. C. Johnson, upon the subject of an increase of the salaries of the clerks, I have the honor to submit the following arrangement :

One chief clerk at	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
Four clerks, each at the head of a particular branch	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
Eight clerks, book-keepers, connected with the receipts and expenditures of the revenue, and the commercial navigation of the United States						
	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
Five clerks recording and examining, and having charge of records	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
Two clerks, copyists	-	-	-	-	-	1,000

This arrangement is based upon the relative grades of clerical duties, so as to give to each a compensation proportioned to the amount of duty and the responsibility attached.

I beg leave here to state, for the better understanding in relation to the duties of this office, that the prevailing idea that this is merely an office of *registry*, is wholly incorrect. Many of the most important calculations and statements connected with the Treasury are made in this office, and among them are :

The statement of appropriations necessary for each succeeding year, exhibiting also the amount appropriated for the previous year.

An annual account of the receipts and expenditures of the United States ;

Annual statements of the amount of duties accruing on merchandise imported, and drawback payable on the exports ;

Statement of payments made at the Treasury in the discharge of miscellaneous claims not otherwise provided for ;

Statement of the expenditures for the relief of sick and disabled seamen ;

Annual statements of the commerce and navigation of the United States.

These constitute but a part of the important duties, and are independently of the many calls from both branches of Congress under resolutions often involving delicate and elaborate calculations.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. L. SMITH,

Register.

To the Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE TREASURY,

January 2, 1837.

SIR : I have received Mr. Johnson's letter, referred by you to this office for a report, in which a desire is expressed to place the clerks of the different departments upon a footing of equality ; and, with that view, that you should " cause to be prepared a statement of the clerks in the Treasury Department, and the salaries they ought to have, so as to make them upon a footing of equality with the clerks in the Post Office Department, as regulated at the last session of Congress."

Supposing that, by your reference of this letter to me, you desire my

opinion as to the salaries that ought to be provided for clerks in this office, I take the occasion to state, that, in my judgment, the prompt and efficient discharge of the public duties belonging to it requires, according to the scale of the salaries in the Post Office Department, indicated in Mr. Johnson's letter :

For a chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
For a clerk of the next grade	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
For one of the next	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
For one of the next	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
And for a messenger	-	-	-	-	-	700

I have, on several occasions heretofore, urged a more liberal provision for clerks in this office. Without repeating, in detail, the reason therefor, I will content myself with indicating the following considerations :

This office has the superintendence of all the civil suits, in which the Government is interested, throughout all the States and Territories of the Union ; and requires a constant correspondence with all the district attorneys, marshals, clerks, and collectors of the United States.

The number of accruing suits on its dockets is *nine* times as great as on the dockets of the late agent of the Treasury, while the number of clerks is the same.

The duties performed are of a character to require the services of clerks of a higher order of qualification.

There are now outstanding, uncollected judgments, recovered before the creation of this office, of more than \$5,000,000 ; the principal part of which, from want of an energetic and vigilant enforcement of the law at the time they were rendered, it is now impossible to collect, many of them being of very old date ; but out of them, I have no doubt, might be gleaned many times the amount annually of such a salary as is necessary to procure a chief clerk who has had a legal education, who would relieve the head of the office of a heavy burden of duties, in a great measure clerical in their nature, which allow him no time for the vigorous correspondence and thorough investigation necessary to ferret out the means of satisfying a part of this enormous amount of old judgments.

My experience leaves no doubt, on my mind, that a wise economy would be consulted by making the liberal provision for clerks in this office proposed in this letter ; and, being conscientiously convinced of it, I do not hesitate to take the responsibility of earnestly recommending it.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

VIRGIL MAXCY,
Solicitor of the Treasury.

To Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

STATEMENT of the number of clerks in the Treasury Department, the compensation now allowed, and the proposed increase.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

No. of clerks.	Salaries.	No. recommend- ed.	Salaries recom- mended,	Increase.	No. allowed.	Salaries allowed.	Increase.
1	\$2,000	1	\$2,500	\$500	1	\$2,200	\$200
3	1,600	3	1,800	600	3	1,800	600
4	1,400	4	1,600	800	4	1,600	800
2	1,150	2	1,400	500	2	1,400	500
4	1,000	4	1,200	800	4	1,200	800
14		14		3,200	14		2,900

FIRST COMPTROLLER.

1	1,700	1	2,000	300	1	2,000	300
4	1,400	4	1,600	800	4	1,600	800
5	1,150	5	1,400	1,250	5	1,400	1,250
5	1,000	5	1,200	1,000	5	1,200	1,000
15		15		3,350	15		3,350

SECOND COMPTROLLER.*

1	1,700	1	2,000	300	1	2,000	300
2	1,400	4	1,600	1,700	2	1,600	400
3	1,150	2	1,400	650	3	1,400	750
1	1,000	1	1,200	400	2	1,200	600
1	800				2	1,000	2,000
8		8		3,050	10		4,050

FIRST AUDITOR.

1	1,700	1	2,000	300	1	2,000	300
2	1,400	2	1,600	400	2	1,600	400
6	1,150	6	1,400	1,500	6	1,400	1,500
3	1,000	3	1,200	600	3	1,200	600
1	800	1	1,000	200	1	1,000	200
13		13		3,000	13		3,000

* Two clerks taken from the Fourth Auditor and given to Comptroller.

STATEMENT—Continued.

SECOND AUDITOR.

No. of clerks.	Salaries.	No. recommend- ed.	Salaries recom- mended.	Increase.	No. allowed.	Salaries allowed.	Increase.
1	\$1,700	1	\$2,000	\$300	1	\$2,000	\$300
2	1,400	2	1,600	400	2	1,600	400
6	1,150	6	1,400	1,500	6	1,400	1,500
5	1,000	5	1,200	1,000	5	1,200	1,000
1	800	1	1,000	200	1	1,000	200
15		15		3,400	15		3,400

THIRD AUDITOR.

1	1,700	1	2,000	300	1	2,000	300
5	1,400	6	1,600	1,450	5	1,600	1,000
10	1,150	9	1,400	2,250	10	1,400	2,500
5	1,000	3	1,200	600	5	1,200	1,000
1	800	3	1,000	200	1	1,000	200
22		22		4,800	22		5,000

FOURTH AUDITOR.*

1	1,700	1	2,000	300	1	2,000	300
2	1,400	5	1,600	1,000	2	1,600	400
5	1,150	3	1,400	750	5	1,400	1,250
6	1,000	3	1,200	600	3	1,200	600
		3	1,000		1	1,000	
14		15		2,650	12		2,550

FIFTH AUDITOR.

1	1,700	1	2,000	300	1	2,000	300
2	1,400	3	1,600	850	1	1,600	200
4	1,150	3	1,400	750	3	1,400	500
					2	1,200	100
7		7		1,900	7		1,100

* Two transferred to Comptroller.

STATEMENT—Continued.

TREASURER.

No. of clerks.	Salaries.	No. recommend- ed.	Salaries recom- mended.	Increase.	No. allowed.	Salaries allowed.	Increase.
1	\$1,700	1	\$2,000	\$300	1	\$2,000	\$300
2	1,400	2	1,600	400	2	1,600	400
2	1,200	2	1,400	400	2	1,400	400
1	1,150	2	1,200	300	2	1,200	250
2	1,000	1	1,000		1	1,000	
8		8		1,400	8		1,350

REGISTER.

1	1,700	1	2,000	300	1	2,000	300
4	1,400	4	1,600	800	4	1,600	800
3	1,150	8	1,400	2,750	3	1,400	750
10	1,000	5	1,200	1,000	10	1,200	2,000
3	800	2	1,000	400	2	1,000	
21		20		5,250	20		3,450

SOLIGITOR.

3	1,150	1	2,000	850	1	1,600	450
		1	1,600	450	1	1,400	250
		1	1,400	250	1	1,200	50
		1	1,200	1,200	1	1,000	1,000
3		4		2,750	4		1,750

GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

1	1,500				2	1,600	200
4	1,400				20	1,400	1,600
16	1,300				26	1,200	500
20	1,200				35	1,000	
5	1,100						
35	1,000						
1	1,500						
1	1,200						
83					83		2,300

RECAPITULATION.

	No.	Salary.	Proposed.	Increase.
In the office of the Secretary -	14	\$18,700	\$21,600	\$2,900
of the First Comptroller	15	18,050	21,400	3,350
of the Sec'd Comptroller	8	9,750	13,800	4,050
of the First Auditor -	13	15,200	18,200	3,000
of the Second Auditor -	15	17,200	20,600	3,400
of the Third Auditor -	22	26,000	31,000	5,000
of the Fourth Auditor -	12	16,250	16,800	550
of the Fifth Auditor -	7	9,100	10,200	1,100
of the Treasurer	8	10,050	11,400	1,350
of the Register	21	23,150	26,600	3,450
of the Solicitor	3	3,450	5,200	1,750
of the Gen'l Land Office	83	95,100	97,400	2,300
	221	262,000	294,200	32,200

WAR DEPARTMENT,
January 6, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose communications from the heads of the different bureaus of this department, giving the information requested by your letter of the 29th ultimo, as to all the clerks employed in the department, except those in the office of the Secretary of War. In respect to the latter, I beg leave to refer to a communication addressed by the Secretary of War, on the 4th of May last, to the President of the Senate, which exhibits their present number and the different grades of salaries now allowed them, viz:

One chief clerk, at a salary of	-	-	-	\$2,000
One clerk, at a salary of	-	-	-	1,600
Three clerks, at a salary of	-	-	-	1,400 each
Three clerks, at a salary of	-	-	-	1,000 do. and
One clerk, at a salary of	-	-	-	800

From the same document it appears that the Secretary recommended the changes exhibited in the following list; viz:

One chief clerk, at a salary of	-	-	-	\$2,000
Two clerks, at a salary of	-	-	-	1,600 each
Two clerks, at a salary of	-	-	-	1,400 do.
Three clerks, at a salary of	-	-	-	1,200 do. and
One clerk, at a salary of	-	-	-	1,000

In that recommendation I concur; and I think it also just to state, that should the salaries of the principal clerks in the Indian Office, the Pension Office, the Pay Department, the Purchasing Department, and the Subsistence Department, be raised to \$2,000, as proposed in the accompanying reports, the salary of the chief clerk of the War Department should certainly be advanced, at least \$500; and that the compensation of the clerk who has charge of the Bounty Land Office, and who receives at this time but \$1,400, should be increased to \$2,000. In these two cases, independently of the superior labor of the stations, there are other considerations which will readily occur to you as justifying such a discrimination.

I have also the honor to lay before you communications addressed to me by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Paymaster General, the Commissary General of Subsistence, and the Adjutant General. The three first strongly illustrate the propriety of a general increase of the present salaries of the clerks, and the latter the necessity for an additional messenger for the office of the Adjutant General.

Before closing this communication, I beg leave to call your attention to the case of the messenger now employed for the Bounty Land Office, and to suggest that the same rate of pay should be allowed to him as that received by the messengers of other bureaus, which employ but one individual in this capacity. He now receives but \$400 per annum, while the lowest sum provided for the others alluded to is \$500, and to which he is equally entitled.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

B. F. BUTLER,

Secretary of War ad interim.

HON. CAVE JOHNSON,

Of the Committee of Ways and Means, Ho. of Reps.

WAR DEPARTMENT, PENSION OFFICE,
January 3, 1837.

SIR: Conformably to your instructions respecting the letter from the Hon. C. Johnson, requesting "a statement of the clerks in the War Department, and the salaries that should be given each; to place them upon a footing of equality with the clerks in the Post Office Department, as regulated by the law of the last session," I have the honor to submit the following statement:

One chief clerk, at	-	-	-	\$2,000	per annum	
Two clerks, at	-	-	-	1,600	do.	each
Three clerks, at	-	-	-	1,400	do.	do.
Two clerks, at	-	-	-	1,200	do.	do.
Seven clerks, at	-	-	-	1,000	do.	do.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. EDWARDS.

Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War ad interim.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office Indian Affairs, January 2, 1837.

SIR: Upon the letter of the Hon. C. Johnson, dated the 29th instant, I have the honor to report; that there are employed in this office twelve clerks, whose annual compensation, as fixed by law, is as follows:

Three at salaries of \$1,600 each; three at \$1,400; one at \$1,200; five at \$1,000.

To place these gentlemen on a footing of equality with those in the Post Office Department, the following scale of salaries should be adopted:

One at a salary of \$2,000; two at \$1,600; three at \$1,400; four at \$1,200; two at \$1,000.

Upon comparing this scale with that in the Post Office Department, it will be seen that, taking into consideration the difference in the number employed, there is a slight excess in the grade of \$1,600, the Post Office Department having three at that salary out of thirty-seven, and the proportion contained in this scale being two out of twelve. I do not presume that it is the intention or wish of Mr. Johnson that any should be reduced from their present salaries; and, indeed, such a step would be detrimental to the public interest in this instance, as the gentlemen who now receive these salaries have charge of important branches of the business, which they perform with ability, and for which the compensation allowed is by no means, in my opinion, adequate. And besides, if the number at \$1,600 be reduced to one, which would perhaps bring the scale nearer to the standard suggested by Mr. Johnson, it would throw an additional salary on another grade, when the apportionment for the others is as nearly correct as it can be made.

I take this occasion to observe, that there are two branches of the business of this office which will render it necessary for me to ask for an additional clerk. The first is, the collection and payment of interest upon the stocks, in which the proceeds of Indian lands have been invested, and the

keeping of the accounts connected with them—a duty of recent origin, growing out of the treaties with the Chickasaws, Cherokees, and some smaller tribes; and which, from the large amount invested, and to be invested, (exceeding \$3,000,000,) will be attended with great labor.

The second is, the preparation of a general index for the correspondence. There is now no index to the subject-matter of the letters; and the consequence is, that the examinations made to answer inquiries of Congress, or of individuals, especially those relating to claims, occupy much time; and when completed, there is no certainty that every thing has been elicited that the files or the records contain. It often has happened that the same claim has been presented by different gentlemen in successive years, so that the name of either of them would be no guide to all the action of the department upon it.

The mental habits requisite for a proper discharge of the duties indicated are of a character to secure which a high salary should be allowed.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS,
Commissioner.

Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War ad interim.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, December 31, 1836.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions, relative to the letter of the Hon. C. Johnson, of the 29th instant, on the subject of the increase of compensation of the clerks employed in the War Department, I have respectfully to submit the following statement concerning those pertaining to this office:

Statement of the clerks engaged in the office of the Adjutant General.

Names of clerks.	Salaries provided for under existing laws.	Proposed salaries.
B. Williams	\$1,200	\$1,600
J. Hepburn	1,150	1,600
J. Addison	1,000	1,400
J. Law	1,000	1,400
J. Lowrie	1,000	1,200
J. Lytle	1,000	1,200
J. Gould	800	1,000

It will be seen that I recommend equal salaries, of \$1,600, for the two veteran clerks, Mr. Williams and Mr. Hepburn, in consideration of their long and faithful services in the War Department, (since the period of the late war,) and of the utter inadequacy of their annual compensation—the one at \$1,150, and the other at \$1,000, for twenty-five years, and in consideration of their present efficient and indispensable services.

Permit me, respectfully, to refer you to my report on the subject of clerks; their arduous duties, long and faithful services, and inadequate compensation, made to your predecessor, and dated April, 1836, which, it is presumed, is now on file in the War Office, or it may be in possession of the Committee of Ways and Means, to whom this subject was referred at the time.

As appropriately connected with the subject, I respectfully recommend that legal provision be made for the employment of a messenger and assistant messenger—the former with a salary of \$750, and the latter with \$450, as substitutes for the non-commissioned officers heretofore employed, but whose services are now prohibited by a law of May last.

Respectfully submitted.

R. JONES,
Adjutant General.

Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 28, 1836.

SIR: The construction of the act of the 9th May, prohibiting the employment of non-commissioned officers as messengers in the military offices of the War Department, makes it necessary that I should represent to you the present wants of this office in this respect.

For many years past two non-commissioned officers have been constantly employed, and the labors and office business heretofore performed by two, cannot now be discharged by the one who is provided for by the act of July 4th.

I have, therefore, in behalf of the public service, respectfully to urge that legal provision be made for the employment of an *assistant messenger*, with a compensation of \$450 per annum.

I am, sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

R. JONES,
Adjutant General.

Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR *ad interim*.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 30, 1836.

SIR: In compliance with the instructions endorsed on the copy of the Honorable C. Johnson's letter of the 29th inst. relative to "clerks' salaries," which you have referred to this office, I have the honor to report, that the business committed to this department will give full employment to seven clerks and one messenger.

Most of the duties are highly responsible, and, while they require the selection of competent individuals to discharge them, the salaries should be such as to offer a sufficient inducement to command their services; with

this view, therefore, I respectfully beg leave to recommend the following scale of compensation, viz :

1 principal clerk, at	\$1,600.
3 clerks, at	1,400 each.
2 ditto at	1,200 each.
1 clerk, at	1,000.
1 messenger, at	750.

While upon this subject, I cannot omit stating, that the business of this office, always relating to professional matters, requires the services of an officer of the corps of engineers, who, to the knowledge of his profession, must combine some practical experience, and on whom, in the absence of the Chief Engineer, must devolve the care of the interests committed to this department. His compensation, as at present established, is below that proposed for the three highest grades of clerks, while his duties are as onerous, and necessarily take precedence. I beg leave, therefore, to recommend, that, in addition to the pay and emoluments now allowed, he should receive so much as would make his whole compensation equal to that of the chief clerks of the several subordinate departments.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

C. GRATIOT.

The Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War ad interim.

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, December 31, 1836.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions, I have the honor to submit the following report, on the subject of increasing the salaries of the clerks employed in this office.

The act of the 20th of April, 1818, makes the following provision for the clerks in the Paymaster General's Office :

One clerk, at a salary of	\$1,700.
One do. do.	1,400.
Two clerks, each do.	1,150.
Three do. do.	1,000.
One clerk do.	800.

Of these, but three are now employed, notwithstanding the law still authorizes the whole. In reducing the number of clerks from eight to three, the head of the department would from necessity retain those he supposed best qualified, and they should of course be entitled to the highest compensation. Applying the proposed increase of salary, according to this principle, to the clerks in this office, it will give to the chief clerk \$2,000, to the second \$1,600, and to the third \$1,400; to which, I think, they are equitably entitled, and do therefore respectfully recommend it.

Respectfully, your obedient servant;

N. TOWSON,

Paymaster General.

To the Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 4, 1837.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions to me, to furnish you with a statement of the clerks in this office, and the salaries that should be given to place them on a footing of equality with the clerks in the Post Office Department, as regulated by the law of last session, I have to report, that, according to my estimate of their relative duties, there should be provided for this office,

One clerk at	\$1,600
Three clerks at	1,400
One clerk at	1,200
One clerk at	1,000
And one messenger at	750

The following statement of their present number and salaries will show to what extent an increase is proposed.

There are now authorized—

One clerk at	\$1,600
One clerk at	1,200
Four clerks at	1,000
And one messenger at	500

I have continued one salary at a thousand dollars, because that rate is found in the Post Office Department, which is taken as the standard; but my own opinion is, that there should be no grade of clerks in the public offices with a lower salary than twelve hundred dollars. With all the economy that can be practised here, I do not see how a man can live honestly, and raise even a small family in decency, on a salary of one thousand dollars, especially at the present time; when all the necessaries of life have advanced to nearly double their former prices.

I have taken the liberty to introduce the messenger attached to this office. His present salary barely exceeds the wages of a common laborer, while he must necessarily be an intelligent and trustworthy man, much above that class. The proposed increase will only place him on a footing of equality with the messengers in the Post Office Department, to which he has undoubted claims. For many years past, the messenger in the Paymaster General's Office has received a salary of seven hundred dollars. There is no just ground for any distinction, and the propriety of placing them all on the same footing is too apparent to require further remark.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

T. CROSS,

Major, acting Quartermaster General.

Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War. ad interim.

ORDNANCE OFFICE,
Washington, December 30, 1836.

Sir: In answer to the letter of the Hon. C. Johnson, of the 29th instant, referred by you to this office, I have the honor to state that the following is a list of the names and salaries of the clerks employed at this time in the Ordnance Office:

Names of clerks.	Present sum received.
William Riddall	\$1,200
Anthony G. Glynn	1,150
George Welsh	1,000
Morris Adler	1,000
Samuel Rainey	1,000
Nathan W. Fales	1,000
Francis V. Yvonnet	1,000
William McDermot	800

It is proposed, in lieu of the above salaries, that—

Two clerks should receive, each - - - - \$1,600 per annum.

Three clerks should receive, each - - - - 1,400

And three clerks should receive, each - - - - 1,200

It will be perceived, here, that there is neither included the highest nor the lowest salaries received in the Post Office Department: the duties of the clerks in the Ordnance Department being generally more uniform in their character than those in the Post Office Department; and, also, that the mean or average rate of the salaries proposed is less than the average rate of the salaries in the Post Office Department by about \$40.

It is scarcely necessary to note, that the labor and complicacy of the duties of the clerks in this department are continually increasing, with the establishment of every new arsenal or depot of arms, and with the accumulation of imperishable materials, deposited in the storehouses of the department.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. BOMFORD,
Colonel of Ordnance.

Hon. B. F. BUTLER,

Secretary of War *ad interim*.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, December 30, 1836.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the Hon. Cave Johnson, addressed you on 29th instant, and referred to this office, requesting a report of the salaries that should be given to the clerks employed therein, so as to place them on an "equality with the clerks in the Post Office Department, as regulated by the law of the last session."

The gentlemen attached to the Subsistence Department received for many years salaries far less than all the clerks of similar grades in the civil bureaux; and notwithstanding repeated attempts were made to increase their compensation, there was not any action in their case until the act rendering the department permanent, passed 3d of March, 1835; and even then they were not placed upon a footing of equality with the clerks of like grades in the offices of the several Auditors, Comptrollers, Register, and Treasurer. The opportunity now being offered, it affords me great gratification to do them that justice to which, from the performance of their duties, I consider them fairly entitled. These duties are as onerous as those of any other clerks under the Government; and I therefore respectfully ask that the chief clerk be placed at a salary of \$2,000, the second clerk at a salary of \$1,600, and the third clerk at a salary of \$1,400 per annum.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

GEO. GIBSON,

Commissary General of Subsistence.

To the Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War ad interim.

CLOTHING BUREAU,
December 31, 1836.

SIR: In obedience to your instructions of the 30th instant, addressed to the several bureaux of the War Department, to enable you to comply with the request of the Hon. Cave Johnson, of the 29th instant, "that you would cause a statement of the clerks in the War Department, and the salaries that should be given to each, to place them on a footing of equality with the clerks in the Post Office Department, as regulated by law of the last session," I have the honor to report (for the Commissary General of Purchases) as follows, viz:

The grade of salaries established by the law referred to, and applicable to the Office of the Commissary General of Purchases, is to be found in section 44, designating the salary of the Auditor of the Post Office Department and his clerks, inasmuch as the grade of the Auditor's salary and that of the Commissary General of Purchases are of the same amount, that is, \$3,000 each.

The following, then, would appear to be the equalization of salaries of the clerks in these bureaux, sought for by the Hon. Mr. Johnson, viz:

Auditor's Office, Post Office Department.		Office of Commissary General of Purchases.	
Chief clerk	\$2,000	1 Chief clerk	\$2,000
Second grade	1,600	1 Second grade	1,600
Third grade	1,400	2 Third grade	1,400
Fourth grade	1,200		

There are four clerks employed in the Purchasing Department, viz : one chief clerk and two others at Philadelphia, and one at Washington city.

Most respectfully, sir,

I am your obedient servant,

JOHN GARLAND,

Major United States Army.

To the Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War *ad interim*.

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,
December 31, 1836.

SIR: The law only authorizes one clerk in this office, whose salary was fixed at \$1,150; and as his labors have been much increased by the increase of the department, I most respectfully recommend that his salary be also increased to \$1,600; thereby placing him on the same footing with the principal clerks in the Post Office Department. This is considered justly due to him, his services being equally as arduous and responsible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJAMIN KING,

Surgeon General *ad interim*.

To the Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War *ad interim*, Washington.

TOPOGRAPHICAL BUREAU,
Washington, December 31, 1836.

SIR: In compliance with your direction of the 30th instant, I have the honor to report, that there are two clerks allowed to this bureau, whose compensation has been fixed at \$1,000 per annum, each. One is the first clerk, the other the recording clerk.

The responsibilities and duties required of each are so different, that, in the annual report lately submitted, I have requested an increase of \$400 per annum for the first clerk; and, accordingly, the estimate for clerks for this bureau is put down, in the report from the bureau, at \$2,400.

The increase in the compensation of the first clerk is submitted, 1st. On the ground of the degree of intelligence which the situation requires; 2d. Upon the actual duties which he has to perform. These duties are also daily increasing, both in quantity and importance; and, while they would justify a division of the present appropriation so that the first clerk should receive \$1,400 and the recording clerk \$600 per annum, yet, having but two clerks, and so much duty for them, it is extremely desirable that, while the compensation of the first clerk should be \$1,400, that of the second should remain at \$1,000: as for that sum talents could be commanded which would be adequate occasionally to aid the chief clerk in his important and responsible duties.

Very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. ABERT,

Lieut. Col. Top. Engineers.

Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

Washington, January 2, 1837.

SIR: In reply to the circular asking what ought, in my opinion, to be the salary of the clerk in my office, having reference to the allowance made to the clerks in the General Post Office, I think that, by the comparison, my clerk ought to be allowed \$1,600 a year; because he is a principal and only clerk, and has a great amount of writing to do at all times; besides, he is clever in the performance of his duty.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. MACOMB,

Major General Commanding.

Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War ad interim.

To the Hon. B. F. Butler,
Secretary of War ad interim, Washington.

Sir: In compliance with your order of the 29th instant, I have the honor to report that there are two clerks allowed to the Major General Commanding the Department of the Army, one of whom is the principal clerk, and the other is a subordinate clerk. The compensation has been fixed at \$1,000 per annum for the principal clerk, and the other the remaining clerk. The responsibilities and duties attached to each are so different that the annual report lately submitted I have reported an increase of \$500 per annum for the first clerk, and accordingly the estimate for 1837 for this office is put down in the report from the Bureau at \$1,500. The increase in the compensation of the first clerk is submitted on the ground of the degree of intelligence which the position requires, and also upon the actual duties which he has to perform. These duties are also daily increasing, both in quantity and importance, and while they would justify a division of the present appropriation to the first clerk should receive \$1,400 and the remaining clerk \$600 per annum, yet having but two clerks, and so much duty to them, it is extremely desirable that while his compensation of the first clerk should be \$1,500, as the total sum should be constant, the second should receive \$1,000, so the total sum should be constant, and would be adapted occasionally to suit the chief clerk in his important and responsible duties.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. I. ARBERT, Major.

Major General Commanding.

STATEMENT of the number of clerks in the War Department, the compensation now allowed, and the proposed increase.

SECRETARY OF WAR.

No. of clerks.	Salaries.	No. recommend- ed.	Salary recom- mended.	Increase.	No. allowed.	Salary allowed.	Increase allowed.
1	\$2,000	1	\$2,500	\$500	1	\$2,200	\$200
1	1,600	2	1,600	-	1	1,800	200
3	1,400	2	1,400	-	3	1,600	600
3	1,000	3	1,200	200	2	1,400	800
1	800	1	1,000	200	2	1,200	600
9		9		900	9		2,400

PENSION OFFICE.

1	1,600	1	2,000	400	1	1,800	200
4	1,400	2	1,600	400	2	1,600	400
1	1,200	3	1,400	200	3	1,400	200
7	1,000	2	1,200	400	2	1,200	400
2	800	7	1,000	400	7	1,000	400
15		15		1,800	15		1,600

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

3	1,600	1	2,000	400	1	1,800	200
3	1,400	2	1,600	-	2	1,600	
1	1,200	3	1,400	-	3	1,400	
5	1,000	4	1,200	800	4	1,200	600
		2	1,000	-	2	1,000	
12		12		1,200	12		800

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.

1	1,200	1	1,600	400	2	1,600	450
1	1,150	1	1,600	450	4	1,200	500
2	1,000	2	1,400	800	1	1,000	200
2	1,000	2	1,200	400			
1	800	1	1,000	200			
7		7		2,200	7		1,450

STATEMENT—Continued.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT.

No. of clerks.	Salaries.	No. recommend- ed.	Salary recom- mended.	Increase.	No. allowed.	Salary allowed.	Increase allowed.
1	\$1,200	1	\$1,600	\$400	2	\$1,400	\$450
1	1,150	3	1,400	900	2	1,200	400
2	1,000	2	1,200	2,400			
		1	1,000	1,000			
4		7		4,700	4		850

PAYMASTER GENERAL.*

1	1,700	1	2,000	300	1	1,800	100
1	1,400	1	1,600	200	1	1,600	200
1	1,150	1	1,400	250	1	1,400	250
3		3		750	3		550

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL.

1	1,600	1	1,600	-	1	1,600	
1	1,200	3	1,400	600	1	1,400	200
4	1,000	1	1,200	200	2	1,200	400
		1	1,000	-	2	1,000	
6		6		800	6		600

ORDNANCE OFFICE.

1	1,200	2	1,600	800	2	1,400	450
1	1,150	3	1,400	1,200	5	1,200	1,000
5	1,000	3	1,200	800	1	1,000	200
1	800						
8		8		2,800	8		1,650

SUBSISTENCE DEPARTMENT.

1	1,600	1	2,000	00	1	1,600	
1	1,200	1	1,600	400	1	1,400	200
1	1,000	1	1,400	400	1	1,200	200
3		3		1,200	3		400

*Five clerks allowed by law not employed.

STATEMENT—Continued.

COMMISSARY OF PURCHASES.

No. of clerks.	Salaries.	No. recommend- ed.	Salary recom- mended.	Increase.	No. allowed.	Salary allowed.	Increase allowed.
1	\$1,550	1	\$2,000	\$450	1	\$1,600	\$50*
1	1,000	1	1,600	600	1	1,400	400*
1	950	1	1,400	450	1	1,200	250
3		3		1,500	3		700

SURGEON GENERAL.

1	1,150	1	1,600	450	1	1,400	250
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TOPOGRAPHICAL BUREAU.

1	1,000	1	1,400	400	1	1,200	200
1	1,000	1	1,000†				
2		2		400	1		200

GENERAL-IN-CHIEF.

1	1,000	1	1,600	400	1	1,200	200
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RECAPITULATION.

	No. of clerks.	Salaries.	Proposed salaries.	Increase.
In the office of the Secretary - - - - -	9	\$11,600	\$14,000	\$2,400
Do. of Pensions - - - - -	15	17,000	18,600	1,600
Do. of Indian Affairs - - - - -	12	15,200	16,000	800
Do. of Adjutant General - - - - -	7	7,150	8,600	1,450
Do. of Chief Engineer - - - - -	4	4,350	5,200	850
Do. of Paymaster General - - - - -	3	4,250	4,800	550
Do. of Quartermaster General - - - - -	6	6,800	7,400	600
Do. of Ordnance - - - - -	8	8,150	9,800	1,650
Do. of Subsistence - - - - -	3	3,800	4,200	400
Do. of Commissary of Purchases - - - - -	3	3,500	4,200	700
Do. of Surgeon General - - - - -	1	1,150	1,400	250
Do. of Topographical Bureau - - - - -	1	1,000	1,200	200
Do. of the Major General - - - - -	1	1,000	1,200	200
	73	84,950	96,600	11,650

Employed at Philadelphia.

†Not allowed by law.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
January 5, 1837.

SIR: In compliance with the request contained in your letter to me of the 31st ultimo, I have the honor to submit a statement of the clerks in the office of the Secretary of the Navy; the salaries they now receive; and the salaries they ought to receive, so as to place them on a footing of equality with the clerks in the Post Office Department, as regulated by the law of the last session of Congress.

Statement.

1. Chief clerk, as at present, \$2,000.
2. Corresponding clerk, as at present, \$1,600.
3. Register of the Navy, now at \$1,400, to be made \$1,600.
4. Warrant clerk, now at \$1,000, to be made \$1,600.
5. Register of correspondence, now at \$1,000, to be made \$1,200.
6. Corresponding and recording clerk, now at \$1,000, to be made \$1,200.
7. Copying and recording clerk, and register of applications, as at present, \$1,400.
8. Copying and recording clerk, now at \$800, to be made \$1,000.
9. Clerk of navy pension, navy hospital, and private pension funds, as at present, \$1,600.

The above statement of present and proposed salaries of the clerks in my office, is made to conform to the strict terms of your call, and to the lowest rates of compensation allowed by the law of the last session to the clerks in the Post Office Department. But believing that this scale of compensation is not commensurate with the services and merits of at least two of the clerks in my office; viz. the first and second clerks, I respectfully recommend that the former be allowed a compensation of \$2,500, and the latter a compensation of \$1,800 per annum.

With the duties of the chief clerk you are too well acquainted, to render an enumeration of them necessary; it is deemed sufficient to say that they are of the first importance to the department, and of the highest responsibility in their nature; to which may be added the consideration, that in the necessary absence of the head of the department, he performs all his duties, as acting secretary, for which he receives no additional compensation. Next in importance and responsibility of duties, to the chief clerk, is the *second clerk* of this department, who is charged with the correspondence with the commanders of squadrons, and ships of war, and stations, and commandant of the marine corps; heads of departments and officers; both Houses and committees of Congress; the annual estimates for the naval service, and secretary's office, and navy building; African agency; claims; correspondence with the Navy Commissioners; orders for recruiting, and recruiting returns; orders for courts of inquiry and courts-martial; summaries of their proceedings and decisions, and with the preservation of their records.

These complicated and arduous duties, requiring both talent and labor, justly entitle him, in my opinion, to the small proposed increase of \$200 to his present salary. By the law of 4th July, 1836, re-organizing the General Land Office, the three principal clerks of that office are allowed \$1,800 each for the performance of duties not more arduous or important to the public than those discharged by the second clerk of this department.

In the statement which I now submit, you will discover that an increase to the salary of the *warrant clerk* of this department is proposed, so as to make it \$1,600 per annum. This addition will only place him on an equality with the clerks performing duties similar to his in the other departments of the Government. His duties as agent for the contingent expenses and salaries of the Navy Department, and as recorder of correspondence with both Houses of Congress, together with the correspondence connected with the South Sea exploring expedition, superadded, as they are, to his regular and prescribed duties as the warrant clerk of the department, included. In the other executive departments, the clerks performing similar duties, are paid as follows :

Department of State, one clerk at \$1,450, and \$250 as superintendent of the northeast executive building	-	-	-	\$1,700
Treasury Department, one clerk at \$1,600 and one at \$1,400,	-	-	-	3,000
War Department, one clerk	-	-	-	1,600
Post Office, one clerk	-	-	-	1,400

It is also proposed to increase the salary of the *register of the navy* to \$1,600. The duties of this officer are also of high importance and responsibility; and the fidelity and ability with which he discharges them justly entitle him to the increase of \$200 recommended to be made to his present salary.

In regard to the proposed addition to the salaries of the *register of correspondence*, of the *corresponding and recording clerk*, and of the *recording and copying clerk*, so as to make the salaries of the two first \$1,200, and the last \$1,000 per annum, I deem it only necessary to remark, that it is the minimum rate of compensation allowed to clerks in the other departments of the Government doing similar duties, and the very least that, in justice, could be given them.

Permit me to add, that the foregoing increase of salaries for the clerks in the office of the Secretary of the Navy is proposed as being but a just and reasonable remuneration for their services; without reference to their greatly increased labors, and to the enhanced prices of every article of subsistence and necessity, which bears so heavily upon the clerks of the executive departments generally, whose salaries are no greater now than they were, as fixed by law, many years ago, and who are compelled to live as they can upon their depreciated value. This consideration, however, will no doubt have its proper weight with Congress when the subject shall, as I hope it will, be brought before it.

I also submit a statement in regard to the clerks of the Navy Commissioners' Office, furnished by the Commissioners, which I commend to your favorable consideration, as embracing their views of the salaries of their own clerks.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

M. DICKERSON.

HON. CAVE JOHNSON,

Of the Committee of Ways and Means,

House of Representatives.

NAVY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,

January 4, 1837.

SIR: In compliance with your directions of yesterday, the Board of Navy Commissioners have the honor to report, that the number of clerks and draughtsman in their office, and their compensation, is at present as follows, viz:

One chief clerk, per annum	-	-	-	-	\$1,600 00
One clerk, do.	-	-	-	-	1,150 00
Four clerks, each do.	-	-	-	-	1,000 00
One draughtsman do.	-	-	-	-	1,000 00

In the opinion of the board, the salaries they should receive, to place them on a footing of equality with the clerks of the Post Office Department, as regulated by the law of the last session of Congress, might be as follows, viz:

One chief clerk, per annum	-	-	-	-	\$1,900 00
Two clerks, each do.	-	-	-	-	1,600 00
Two clerks, each do.	-	-	-	-	1,400 00
One clerk, do.	-	-	-	-	1,000 00
One draughtsman do.	-	-	-	-	1,000 00

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JNO. RODGERS.

HON. MAHLON DICKERSON,
Secretary of the Navy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

January 6, 1837.

SIR: In the communication made to you a few days ago, respecting the pay of clerks in this department, it will be noticed that the salary of the clerk of the navy pension, privateer pension, and navy hospital funds, is fixed by law at \$1,600. In that communication, no increase is proposed to his pay, because the plan adopted did not seem to admit of its increase. But it is due to the incumbent to say that his duties are important, and that he has performed them faithfully and efficiently. This explanation is made, that it may not seem that he is deemed less worthy than the other gentlemen of my office, which might otherwise be inferred from the circumstance that no increase is proposed to his compensation.

I am, very respectfully, &c.,

M. DICKERSON.

HON. CAVE JOHNSON,
Committee of Ways and Means, H. R.

STATEMENT of the number of clerks in the Navy Department ; the compensation now allowed ; and the proposed increase.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

No of clerks.	Salary.	No. recommend- ed.	Salary recom- mended.	In- crease.	No. allowed.	Salary allowed.	Increase.
1	\$2,000	1	\$2,500	\$500	1	\$2,200	\$200
2	1,600	3	1,600	200	2	1,800	400
2	1,400	1	1,400	-	2	1,600	400
3	1,000	3	1,200	600	3	1,200	600
1	800	1	1,000	200	1	1,000	200
9		9		1,500	9		1,800

NAVY COMMISSIONERS.

	Salary.	Secretary.				Salary.	
1	\$2,000	1	\$1,900	\$300	1	\$2,000	Sec'ry.
1	1,600	1	1,600	1,050	1	1,600	\$250
1	1,150	2	1,400	800	4	1,400	800
4	1,000	2	1,000		1	1,000	Draft'm.
1	1,000	2	1,000		1	1,000	
7		7		2,150	7		1,050

RECAPITULATION.

	No. of clerks.	Salary.	Proposed salary.	Increase.
In the office of Secretary of Navy -	9	\$11,800	\$13,600	\$1,800
In the office of Navy Commissioners	7	9,750	10,050	1,050
	16	21,550	23,650	2,850