

6-27-1892

Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Appropriations Bill

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 27, 1892.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. ALLISON, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 9040.]

The Committee on Appropriations, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9040), "An act making appropriations for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, and for other purposes," report the same to the Senate with various amendments, and present herewith a statement showing the amount of the estimates for this service for the fiscal year 1893, the amount of the bill as passed the House of Representatives, the amount as reported to the Senate, with the items of increase made thereto, and the amount of the legislative act for fiscal year 1892. Appended will be found various letters and papers considered by the committee bearing upon the amendments recommended to the bill:

Legislative, executive and judicial expenses, 1893.

Amount of estimates for 1893.....	\$22, 754, 038. 05
Amount of House bill.....	21, 683, 752. 05
Increase made by Senate Committee.....	351, 020. 92
Amount as reported to the Senate.....	22, 034, 772. 97
Amount of legislative act for 1892.....	22, 027, 674. 75

The changes made in amounts of House bill by the committee are as follows:

INCREASE.

Senate officers and employes, restoring salaries, etc.....	\$74, 432. 92
Senate contingent and miscellaneous expenses.....	13, 550. 00
Senate select committees, expenses.....	10, 000. 00
Executive Office.....	1, 000. 00
Department of State.....	2, 300. 00
Treasury Department, namely:	
Secretary's Office.....	1, 800. 00
Revenue Marine division.....	2, 500. 00
Second Comptroller's Office.....	5, 400. 00
Second Auditor's Office.....	1, 000. 00
Third Auditor's Office.....	3, 320. 00
Comptroller of the Currency, office.....	200. 00
Bureau of Statistics.....	1, 040. 00
Director of the Mint, office.....	1, 000. 00
Stationery.....	4, 000. 00

Treasury Department, namely :

Rent of buildings.....	\$4, 800. 00
Miscellaneous expenses.....	1, 900. 00
Sugar inspection, expenses.....	6, 000. 00
Assistant treasurer's office, Chicago.....	5, 000. 00
Checks and drafts, Treasurer's office.....	11, 000. 00
Mint at Carson, Nev.....	42, 500. 00
Mint at Denver, Col.....	2, 000. 00
Assay office at Boise City, Idaho.....	1, 500. 00
Assay office at Charlotte, N. C.....	500. 00
Assay office in New York.....	5, 000. 00
Utah Territory, contingent expenses.....	500. 00
Utah Commission (net increase).....	30, 500. 00
Surgeon-General's Office.....	2, 088. 00
Bureau of Navigation.....	900. 00
Hydrographic Office.....	5, 800. 00
Nautical Almanac Office.....	1, 500. 00
Naval Observatory.....	500. 00
General Land Office.....	3, 000. 00
Indian Office.....	2, 250. 00
Patent Office.....	1, 350. 00
Bureau of Education.....	2, 400. 00
Interior Department, contingent, namely:	
Furniture, carpets, ice, etc.....	15, 000. 00
Stationery.....	10, 000. 00
Rent of buildings.....	16, 700. 00
Postage under Postal Union.....	2, 000. 00
Surgeons-General and their clerks.....	21, 050. 00
First Assistant Postmaster-General, office.....	5, 220. 00
Second Assistant Postmaster-General, office.....	1, 260. 00
Third Assistant Postmaster-General, office.....	2, 700. 00
Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General, office.....	3, 560. 00
Post-Office Department, contingent expenses.....	5, 500. 00
Official Postal Guide.....	8, 000. 00
Department of Justice, transportation.....	1, 000. 00
District of Columbia supreme court judges.....	5, 500. 00
Court of Claims.....	1, 000. 00
	351, 020. 92
Total increase.....	22, 034, 772. 97
Total as reported to the Senate.....	

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., June 14, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Third Auditor, dated the 13th instant, in relation to the work of his office, and urging that no reduction of the force thereof should be made in the legislative bill now pending, and as passed by the House of Representatives.

Respectfully, yours,

CHARLES FOSTER, *Secretary.*

Hon. WM. B. ALLISON,
Chairman Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE THIRD AUDITOR,
Washington, D. C., June 13, 1892.

SIR: By the recent action of the House of Representatives in the passage of the legislative appropriation bill, the force of this office is reduced two clerks of class E, and two laborers. I respectfully request that you submit to the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate the following statement of the business of this office with a view to having the reduction corrected before the bill shall have passed the Senate.

The passage of the act of June 27, 1890, has very largely added to the rolls of pensioners. The auditing of every dollar of army appropriation is passed upon in the Third Auditor's Office. The average increase of pensioners for the past year has been 25,000 per month. This means an added work of 100,000 vouchers to be examined in addition to the vast minutiae of detail work for their proper classification as to rate, agency, etc. We now have practically a debit and credit account of over 800,000 upon our rolls, and you will readily see that the addition of 300,000 more every year is entailing upon the clerical force of this office already more labor than they can keep current. The vouchers examined during the past year represent a disbursement of over \$100,000,000. In spite of the closest application of the clerical force we are not now able to keep up with the disbursements of the different pension agencies.

Under the provisions of section 4718, Revised Statutes, the reimbursement work of the pension business is largely increasing, and must necessarily become more and more as death decimates the soldiers of the Union. The claims under this law are now averaging 400 per month, which is twice the number of three years ago, and each month the number is increasing at a larger ratio. These claims you will remember are for the expenses consequent upon the last sickness of pensioners, and the work should not be permitted to fall behindhand. We now have 800 claims of this character on hand. Adjudication requires great care, and, as in all these pension disbursements, we are compelled to have the best talent of the most experienced clerks. Each added pensioner touches the business of this office with increased labors, and it is due these veterans, as well as the public business of the country, that the auditing officers should not be delayed in the auditing of these disbursements by reducing the clerical force, that is not now nearly sufficient.

In addition to this branch of the labor that is daily increasing, the disbursement of the Army and river and harbor appropriations necessitates a prompt and careful auditing. It is not necessary to urge the importance of keeping close in touch with the outlays of all these legislative appropriations. It is in the interest of the Government and due the different agencies of disbursements that an interval of months should not lapse between the dates of payment and the examination of vouchers in the auditing offices of the Treasury. There is not any class of business handled by this office that is not increasing, and must necessarily increase with the development of the country and the enlargement of our pension rolls.

The reduction of laborers is very unjust. The files of this office are the largest in any bureau of the Treasury Department, and there are forty-eight rooms occupied by the clerks that are subject to the usual requirements of the laboring force. In addition to these duties I have all letter-press copying, the withdrawing of vouchers, etc., done by the laborers in order to economize the time of the clerical force. To now take from us two laborers will impose their work upon the clerks of the classified service.

In the interest of a proper and effective disposition of the business of this office that should be kept current, I have the honor to ask that you submit this statement to the honorable chairman of the Senate Committee of Appropriations.

Respectfully,

W. H. HART,
Auditor.

Hon. CHARLES FOSTER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., June 15, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for consideration in the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill now pending, a communication from the chief of the division of stationery, printing, and blanks of this office, of the 4th instant, in relation to the appropriation for "Checks and drafts, independent Treasury," for the fiscal year 1893.

Attention is invited to the recommendation of the Department in the matter, contained in a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of March 24, 1892, and printed in House Ex. Doc. No. 175.

Respectfully yours,

CHARLES FOSTER,
Secretary.

Hon. WM. B. ALLISON,
Chairman Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate.

LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION BILL.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., June 4, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to advise you that in the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill for the year 1893, reported to the House of Representatives on the 28th ultimo, is an item of \$9,000 for paper for checks and drafts. This amount is entirely inadequate. The sum of \$16,000 has been expended during the present fiscal year, \$7,000 of this amount being a deficiency appropriation.

In the Book of Estimates for 1893 the usual amount (\$9,000) was asked for, the increase in the number of pension checks used not being known at the time of submitting the estimate. Subsequently, however, upon this condition becoming known to the Department, I advised you that \$20,000 would be needed, and asked that Congress be requested to make an appropriation of that amount.

Still later information coming to the Department satisfies me that even this sum would fall far short of the actual requirements during the year. According to the requisitions for pension checks recently received from the Interior Department, \$35,000 will be needed for paper for checks for that service alone during the year. It should be understood that all checks and drafts needed by every disbursing officer of the Government are paid for out of this appropriation.

It is important that this appropriation be made at the present session of Congress. If it is put off until the next session serious embarrassment will be the result, as there will not be checks with which to pay pensions and other obligations of the Government.

Considerable time is required to make the paper and prepare and distribute the checks.

Respectfully yours,

A. L. STURTEVANT,
Chief Division Stationery, Printing, and Blanks.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE,
Washington, D. C., June 23, 1892.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 16th instant, referring to sundry amendments in the pending legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill to existing laws respecting the gauging, weighing, etc., of distilled spirits, and requesting me to examine these amendments in detail, and state whether or not they meet with approval in this office; and, if they do, whether they are "so urgent as to require that they be placed in an appropriation bill."

The first amendment changes existing law (section 8, act March 1, 1879) by requiring that spirits in the hands of a rectifier, before they are emptied from their package for rectification or compounding, in accordance with the prescribed notice given by him, shall be submitted to the inspection of a United States gauger, "who shall duly weigh or gauge such package and its contents and make due return thereof."

The second and third amendments change existing law (sections 3320 and 3323, Revised Statutes) by doing away with the requirement that spirits drawn from any package on the premises of a rectifier or wholesale liquor dealer into any other package for shipment, sale, or delivery shall be again inspected and gauged.

These amendments have been carefully considered by this office and meet with my full approval. If enacted they will result not only in doing away with unnecessary labor, but in a reduction of expenditures, as I have explained in my report to the Secretary of the Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891 (pp. 77, 78), to which I respectfully refer you; and therefore they may perhaps be regarded as properly incorporated in an appropriation bill.

The fourth and last amendment contemplates the striking out of the words "by cutting or burning a canceling line across such marks or brands," in section 3295, Revised Statutes.

The same object intended to be accomplished by section 3295, Revised Statutes, is fully provided for by section 3324, Revised Statutes; and as the observance of the provisions of section 3295 would result simply in the canceling of the marks and brands on the head of a package with a burning iron, instead of their entire removal, thus rendering the package unfit for reuse at a distillery or a rectifying house, and thereby needlessly destroying the property of the dis-

tiller or rectifier, whereas section 3324 provides for the removal of the marks and brands with a scraping iron, leaving the package in a merchantable condition, to be again used under proper circumstances by the distiller or rectifier, this office has for many years required taxpayers and others emptying packages of distilled spirits to accomplish the removal of the marks and brands in the manner prescribed by section 3324, leaving the provisions of section 3295 obsolete.

The enactment of the proposed amendment would remove an annoyance to this office and a source of confusion to many taxpayers and to new and inexperienced revenue officers.

The provision in the bill relating to inspectors of sugar does not appropriate the amount desired, it being placed at \$30,000. This office, in a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury dated October 15, 1891, submitting estimates for the next fiscal year, estimated that \$40,000 would be needed. The appropriation for the present fiscal year was \$36,000, and in my judgment the amount for the coming year should not be decreased.

The salaries and necessary expenses of these inspectors aggregate about \$3,000 a month.

I shall be glad if these provisions are found not to be out of place in the appropriation bill, and if they are retained and become law in that bill.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN W. MASON,
Commissioner.

Hon. W. B. ALLISON,
United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, June 22, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to invite the attention of the Committee on Appropriations to the estimates for rent of buildings for this Department for the fiscal year 1893. These estimates embrace the following separate items:

Bureau of Education.....	\$4,000
Geological Survey.....	10,000
Indian Office.....	7,500
General Land Office.....	16,000
Storage for documents.....	2,000
Total.....	39,500

The amount estimated for is the same as the amount appropriated for the current fiscal year with the exception of an increase of \$1,500 additional for the Indian Office and \$2,000 additional for the storage of documents. The reasons for these additions were submitted with the estimates, to which I beg leave to invite your attention.

Of the \$16,000 appropriated for the General Land Office only \$4,800 have been expended this year, owing to the fact that suitable accommodations could not be obtained. If this amount had not been limited to the use of the General Land Office it could have been used to great advantage in providing quarters for other portions of the force now occupying the Department building and have relieved this building of its present crowded condition.

I have, therefore, to request that the appropriation for the next fiscal year in the amount of the estimate be made in a lump sum of \$39,500, "for the rent of rooms and buildings for the use of the Department of the Interior, its bureaus and offices." This will allow of the division of the appropriation between the different offices as their needs may seem to require, and will, without doubt, permit of the expenditure of the appropriation to better advantage than if made in separate items.

Very respectfully,

GEO. CHANDLER,
Acting Secretary.

Hon. W. B. ALLISON,
Chairman Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate.