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FINANCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

LETTER

From the Secretary of the Treasury to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and means.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
March 28, 1814.

SIR,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the — instant; an earlier answer to which has been prevented by the constant pressure of current business in the office.

On the subject of a deficiency of 700,000 dollars in the estimated receipts of the treasury during the present year, as stated in the annual report made from this department at the commencement of the present session of Congress, and in relation to the enquiry whether those receipts will not be more considerable than was then estimated, or whether, with a view to that object, it is necessary at the present time to provide additional revenue, I have the honor to submit the following statement and remarks:

In that report the receipts during the present year were estimated as follows, viz:

1. Customs. On account of bonds outstanding on the 1st Jan 1814,		5,500,000
On account of duties accruing during the year 1814, and which will become payable during the same year		500,000
		6,000,000
2. Sales of public lands		600,000
3. Internal revenue and direct tax		3,500,000
		10,100,000

Increased receipts are anticipated from some of these items on the following grounds:

The custom house duties which accrued during the year 1813, amounted to about 8,000,000 dollars. During the early part of that year the blockade of a great part of the coast of the United States by the enemy was not established, and the embargo which was laid on the 17th of December of that year, produced no effect in diminishing the duties in the custom houses. These circumstances will doubtless materially affect the duties during the year 1814; but, after making a due allowance for them, it is considered safe to estimate the amount of duties which will accrue during that year at 2,700,000 dollars, or one third of the amount which accrued in 1813. A larger portion of these duties than heretofore now arises on importations from the W. Indies, on which the credit allowed by law (being three and six months) is much shorter than on importations from other parts of the world; and a larger portion of the duties, therefore, accruing during the present year will be payable before the termination of it. The amount payable for drawbacks, which, during the year 1813, was nearly one million of dollars, will, during the year 1814, be very small. The expences of collection will also be less than during the last year.—It is believed, therefore, that of the duties accruing during the present year, after paying drawbacks and expenses of collection, there may be estimated as payable into the treasury before the end of the year, one million of dollars.

From the sales of public lands, the receipts exclusive of those for lands in the Mississippi territory, which at present are payable to the state of Georgia, may be estimated at the sum stated in the annual report, viz: six hundred thousand dollars.

Since that report was made, seven States have assumed and paid their quotas of the direct tax, under the act of the 3d of August last. The aggregate net amount of the quotas of these States is $1,158,796 76. The gross quotas of the eleven remaining States amount to $1,636,709 70, of which it is estimated that one half will be collected and paid into the treasury before the end of the year 1814, making, with the quotas already paid, two millions of dollars.

All the internal duties, with the exception of the duty on refined sugar, will be more productive than was heretofore estimated. The credit allowed for the duty on licenses to distillers, will postpone the payment into the treasury of a considerable portion of that duty accruing during the present year, beyond the end of the year. But notwithstanding this circumstance, the amount payable on account of those duties during the year, is estimated at one million eight hundred thousand dollars; of which, about seven hundred thousand dollars have already been paid into the treasury.

The revenue arising from the postage of letters, fees on letters patent, and sundry incidental receipts, including arrears of former direct tax and internal duties, may be estimated at fifty thousand dollars. The receipts on these accounts for several past years have averaged more than this sum annually.

The result of the estimate now given, is for receipts during the year 1814—

From the proceeds of the customs,		6,500,000
Public lands,		600,000
Direct tax,	2,000,000	
Internal duties,	1,800,000	
		3,500,000
Postage and incidental receipts,		50,000
Making an aggregate of		10,950,000

And being 850,000 dollars more than was estimated in the annual report from this department, of the 8th of Jan. last. From this view of the subject, it is considered that for the purpose alone of covering the deficit of 700,000 dollars, stated in that report, it will not be necessary to provide additional revenue.

On the subject of changing the duties on domestic distilled spirits from the capacity of the still to the gallon, respecting which you ask such information as the treasury department can furnish, I have the honor to observe, that the only practical information this department could be supposed to possess on this subject, must be derived either from the proceedings under the former laws imposing duties on domestic distilled spirits, or from those under the present law laying duties on licenses to distillers, &c. The documents in this office, so far as it has been practicable to examine them, during the short time allowed for that purpose, furnish no information relative to the proceedings under the former laws calculated to throw light on the subject. The information derived from other sources, tends to shew that the difficulties which occurred in collecting, under those laws, the duties on the quantity of spirits distilled, were experienced principally in cases of distilleries carried on the country, or of such as were carried on elsewhere on a small scale. In the cases of those carried on in cities, towns and villages, and particularly such as were on a large scale, the difficulties were less considerable.

By recurring to the laws passed on this subject, from 1791 to 1797, (which are sufficiently well known to the committee) it appears the option first given to country distillers and owners of stills worked elsewhere, of small capacity, to pay by the gallon, if preferred, instead of paying by the capacity of the still, was by the act of the 3d March, 1797, abolished, and the duty on the capacity of the still made absolute in those cases;—from which it may be inferred the opinion the prevalent was in favour of the latter mode. A duty on the quantity of spirits distilled, if the same could, without much evasion of the law, be collected, would, it is presumed, be more productive than that which it might be deemed proper to impose on the capacity of the still.

How far the progress of improvement, in the country generally, or a change of circumstances in other respects, may be considered as having removed the causes of the difficulties formerly experienced in collecting the duty on the quantity of spirits distilled; or how far it would be advisable to adopt, to a certain extent, the course formerly pursued, and impose the duty on the quantity distilled, in cases of large distilleries generally, and of all those carried on in cities, towns and villages, (except perhaps such as are on a very small scale) and on the capacity of the still, in all other cases, are questions proper for the consideration and decision of the committee. The present law laying duties on licences to distillers, &c. has not been in operation a sufficient length of time to afford the means of forming such opinion on the subject as ought to be relied on. From the accounts received in the department of the proceedings under it, there is reason to believe as already stated in answering another part of your letter, that the revenue arising from this branch of internal duties will exceed the sum at which it has been estimated.

I have the honour to be,
Very respectfully, sir,
Your obedient servant,
G. W. CAMPBELL.

Hon. JOHN W. EPPES,
Chairman of the Committee
of Ways and Means.

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(BY AUTHORITY.)

AN ACT

Making appropriations for the support of the Navy of the United States, for the year one thousand eight hundred and fourteen.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That for defraying the expenses of the Navy, for the year one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, the following sums, including the sum of one million of dollars already appropriated by the act, entitled "an act making certain partial appropriations for the year one thousand eight hundred and fourteen," be, and the same hereby are respectively appropriated, that is to say:

For pay and subsistence of the officers, and pay of the seamen, two million five hundred and seventy nine thousand three hundred and forty one dollars.

For provisions, one million four hundred and thirty nine thousand nine hundred and two dollars and fifty two cents.

For medicines, hospital stores, and all expenses on account of the sick, one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

For repairs of vessels, one million five hundred thousand dollars.

For contingent expences, including freight, transportation, and recruiting expences, five hundred thousand dollars.

For ordnance, ammunition, and military stores, three hundred thousand dollars.

For the navy yards, docks and wharves, one hundred thousand dollars.

For pay and subsistence of the marine corps, two hundred and eighteen thousand two hundred and seventy nine dollars and fifty cents.

For clothing for the same, seventy one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight dollars and ten cents.

For military stores for the same, twenty seven thousand six hundred and eight dollars and seventy five cents.

For contingent expences for the same, forty six thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the several appropriations herein before made shall be paid out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

LANGDON CHEVES, Speaker of the House of Representatives.
E. GERRY, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

March 19, 1814.
Approved, JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

To authorise a loan for a sum not exceeding twenty five millions of dollars.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized to borrow, on the credit of the United States, a sum not exceeding twenty five millions of dollars, to be applied in addition to the monies now in the Treasury, or which may be received from other sources, to defray any expences which have been, or during the present year may be authorised by law, and for which appropriations have been, or during the present year, may be made by law: *Provided*, That no engagement or contract shall be entered into, which shall preclude the United States from reimbursing any sum or sums thus borrowed at any time after the expiration of twelve years from the last day of December next.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Treasury, with the approbation of the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorised to cause to be constituted certificates of stock, signed by the Register of the Treasury, or by a Commissioner of Loans, for the sum to be borrowed by this act, or for any part thereof, and the same to be sold, And the Secretary of the Treasury shall lay before Congress, during the first week in the month of February, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, an account of all the monies obtained by the sale of the certificates of stock in manner aforesaid, together with a statement of the rate at which the same may have been sold.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby authorised, with the approbation of the President of the United States, to employ an agent or agents for the purpose of obtaining subscriptions to the loan authorised by this act, or of selling any part of the stock to be created by virtue thereof. A commission not exceeding one quarter of one per cent. on the amount thus sold, or for which subscriptions shall have been thus obtained, may, by the Secretary of the Treasury, be allowed to such agent or agents; and a sum not exceeding sixty six thousand dollars, to be paid out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, is hereby appropriated for paying the amount of such commission or commissions as may be thus allowed, and also for defraying the expenses of printing and issuing the subscription certificates, and certificates of stock, and other expenses incident to the completing of the loan authorised by this act.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the funds constituting the annual appropriation of eight millions of dollars for the payment of the principal and interest of the public debt of the United States, as may be wanted for that purpose, after satisfying the sums necessary for the payment of the interest and such part of the principal of said debt as the United States are now pledged annually to pay or reimburse, is hereby pledged and appropriated for the payment of the interest, and for the reimbursement of the principal of the stock which may be created by virtue of this act. It shall accordingly be the duty of the commissioners of the sinking fund to cause to be applied and paid out of the said fund, yearly, such sum and sums as may be annually wanted to discharge the interest accruing on the said stock, and to reimburse the principal as the same becomes due and may be discharged in conformity with the terms of the loan; and they are further authorised to apply from time to time such sum or sums out of the said fund, as they may think proper, towards redeeming by purchase, and a price not above par, the principal of the said stock, or any part thereof. And the faith of the United States is hereby pledged to establish sufficient revenues for making good any deficiency that may hereafter take place in the funds hereby appropriated for paying the said interest and principal sums, or any of them in manner aforesaid.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for any of the banks in the District of Columbia to lend any part of the sum authorised to be borrowed by virtue of this act, any thing in any of their charters to the contrary notwithstanding.

LANGDON CHEVES, Speaker of the House of Representatives.
E. GERRY, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

March 24, 1814.
Approved, JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

To alter the time for holding the District Courts of the United States for the Virginia district.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That instead of the time heretofore prescribed by law for the sessions of the District Court of the United States for the Virginia district, the said Court shall hereafter commence its sessions on the following days in each year, that is to say: on the twelfth day of April, and on the fifteenth day of October, in the City of Richmond, and on the first day of May, and on the first day of November, in the Borough of Norfolk.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Court, at its sessions to be commenced by virtue of this act, on the twelfth day of April next, in the City of Richmond, and on the first day of May next, in Norfolk, shall have the same right, power and jurisdiction, over all actions, suits, process, notices, pleadings, and recognizances, and of all other proceedings of what nature or kind soever, civil or criminal, as the said Court might or could possess and lawfully exercise, if the sessions of the said Court, instead of being commenced on the said twelfth day of April next, and the said first day of May next, should have been commenced on the days heretofore prescribed.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the passing of this act, all actions, suits, process, notices, pleadings and recognizances, and all other proceedings of what nature or kind soever, civil or criminal, returnable to or having day in the said Court, during the session thereof, shall be returnable to and have day in the sessions of the Court as prescribed by this act.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That if at any time the day prescribed by this act for commencing a session of the said Court shall be a Sunday, the said Court shall commence and hold its session on the following day.

LANGDON CHEVES, Speaker of the House of Representatives.
E. GERRY, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

March 24, 1814.
Approved, JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

To amend the act, entitled "an act laying duties on sales at auction of merchandise and of ships and vessels."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the condition of the bond required to be given by every auctioneer by the third section of the act, entitled "an act laying duties on sales at auction of merchandize and of ships and vessels," passed the twenty fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, shall be, that the said auctioneer shall render the quarterly account in writing, required of him by said act, within twenty days after the first day of April, July, October and January, in each year, and that in the said quarterly return shall be stated the aggregate amount of goods, wares, merchandize and effects, liable to duty, sold by him on each day during the quarter, with the date of each sale; any thing in the said act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

LANGDON CHEVES, Speaker of the House of Representatives.
E. GERRY, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

March 24, 1814.
Approved, JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

For the relief of Isaac Clason.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there be paid to Isaac Clason, of the City of New York, out of any unappropriated money in the Treasury of the United States, the sum of eighteen thousand nine hundred sixty three dollars sixty eight cents, in full of the sum of money which has been paid into the Treasury by the said Isaac Clason, for duties on a cargo of sugar imported by him into New York, in August, one thousand eight hundred and five, from Havanna; which sugar he exported to Amsterdam in the ship Ambition, in the month of September then next following: *Provided*, That prior to the payment of the above mentioned sum of money to the said Isaac Clason, satisfactory proof be exhibited to the Comptroller of the Treasury, that the said cargo of sugar was landed in some foreign port or place.

LANGDON CHEVES, Speaker of the House of Representatives.
E. GERRY, Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

March 24, 1814.
Approved, JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

In addition to an act, entitled "an act allowing a bounty to the owners, officers and crews of the private armed vessels of the United States.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That in lieu of the bounty now allowed by law, the sum of one hundred dollars be paid to the owners, officers and crews of the private armed vessels of the United States, commissioned as letters of marque, for each and every prisoner by them captured and delivered to an agent authorised to receive him in any port of the United States, or of a power at war with Great Britain, or delivered at any station within the dominions of the King of Great Britain established for the exchange of prisoners of war, whereby such prisoner shall be actually placed and allowed by the government of the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the account of prisoners to the credit of the United States. And the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorised and required to pay, or cause to be paid to such owners, officers and crews of private armed vessels commissioned as aforesaid, or their agents, the aforesaid sum for each prisoner captured and delivered as aforesaid.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That for the purposes aforesaid, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, be and the same is hereby appropriated.

LANGDON CHEVES, Speaker of the House of Representatives.
E. GERRY, Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

March 19, 1814.
Approved, JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

Concerning Shawneetown.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That a tract of land not exceeding two sections, in the Illinois territory, adjoining Shawneetown, shall, under the directions of the surveyor general, be laid off into town lots, streets, and avenues, and out lots, in the same manner, under the same restrictions, as are prescribed by the sixth section of the act, entitled "An act providing for the sale of certain lands in the Indiana territory, and for other purposes," approved the thirtieth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ten. And it shall be the duty of the surveyor general, or the person by him authorised to carry this act into effect, to select the two sections so as to extend the said town to the high lands in the rear of the town as it is now laid out.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the lots in said town shall be offered for sale at the same time, and on the same terms and conditions as are provided by the sixth section of the before recited act.

LANGDON CHEVES, Speaker of the House of Representatives.
E. GERRY, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

March 28, 1814.
Approved, JAMES MADISON.