

18th CONGRESS, }
1st Session. }

[65]

DOCUMENTS

SUBMITTED BY THE

Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs,

IN RELATION TO

THE BILL IN ADDITION TO AN ACT

ESTABLISHING

Navy Hospitals.

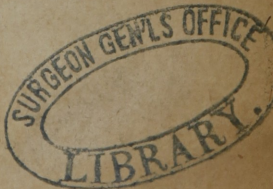
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NAVY DEPARTMENT, *March, 1824.*

SIR: In answer to the Resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 20th January, that "the Commissioners of Navy Hospitals be directed to report to this House the amount of the sums which they have received and expended by virtue of the act, entitled "An act establishing Navy Hospitals," the balance remaining in their hands on the 31st of December, 1823, designating the sum which has been 'absorbed in the pay of the Navy,' and which is due to the Hospital Fund;" and what measures they have adopted, to carry into effect the provisions of said act;" we have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter from the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, marked A, with a statement of the accounts in the Auditor's Office, marked B, shewing the receipts and disbursements of said fund, up to the 31st December, 1823.

The law, separating the Naval from the Marine Hospital Fund, was passed on the 26th February, 1811. On that day a balance of \$ 3,782 86, standing to the credit of the Marine Hospital Fund, was carried to the credit of the Naval Hospital Fund. This sum, with the deductions authorized by law, from the pay of the officers, seamen, and marines, constitutes the whole of the Naval Hospital Fund. These deductions have been regularly made, whenever the officers, seamen, and marines, have received their pay, and the sums so deducted, have been left in the "Pay of the Navy," which is, of course, responsible for them. They were not, in the first instance, drawn from the "Pay of the Navy" at the times in which they accrued, in consequence of the war, which succeeded the passage of the law, and were left in the same situation for several years afterwards.

By the report made on the 29th October, 1823, it appears, that the balance to the credit of the Fund at that time, was \$ 117,074 34; since which, the deductions from the pay of the officers, seamen, and marines, and for which the "Pay of the Navy" is responsible, have amounted to \$ 2,638 61; making the Navy Hospital Fund, on the 31st December, 1823, amount to \$ 119,712 95, exclusive of the amount which has been under the control of the Commissioners.

After the establishment of the fund in February, 1811, and before the 30th September, 1821, the expenditures by the Commissioners amounted to \$ 10,652 85; since that time, there has been drawn and placed in the hands of the Treasurer of the United States, subject to the orders of the Commissioners, \$ 43,335 87; and in September, 1823, \$ 18,000 were paid for a site for a Naval Hospital, near the Navy Yard, at Charlestown, Mass. These three sums added together, make \$ 71,988 72, which, added to the sum of \$ 119,712 95, for which the "pay of the Navy" is responsible, makes \$ 191,701 67, being the whole amount of money which has accrued to the fund since its establishment.

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From this statement, it will be perceived that the only funds which the Commissioners can immediately control for the objects of the law, are those in the hands of the Treasurer, viz: \$43,335 87. The debt due from the "pay of the Navy," can only be paid as balances of the appropriations for that object shall remain at the end of the year; and as these appropriations are founded upon estimates, calculated with great care and accuracy, and are barely adequate to accomplish their object, it is manifest that it will be a long time before the fund is repaid, and the Commissioners will have the control of all the means which properly belong to it. The delay will greatly postpone the accomplishment of the benevolent purposes of the law creating the fund, and do injustice to those who have contributed to it, and who, by the delay, will be deprived of its benefits.

With a view to avoid the difficulties which have heretofore existed on this subject, an order has been given to the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, to make out, at the end of each quarter, from the returns of the disbursing officers, a statement of all moneys accruing to the Naval Hospital Fund during the quarter, and give a regular certificate of the amount, that a warrant may be issued for the same, in favor of the Agent of the Fund. By this means it will, at the end of each quarter, receive all the money to which it is entitled, and the "pay of the Navy" will not become any further indebted to it.

In September, 1823, the Commissioners purchased a site for a Hospital, adjoining the Navy Yard at Charlestown, Mass. for which they paid \$18,000, and have made a contract for another site, near the Navy Yard at Brooklyn, N. Y. These are all "the measures they have adopted to carry into effect the provisions of the act."

Respectfully, &c.

SAML. L. SOUTHARD.

To the Honorable the SPEAKER
Of the House of Representatives.

A.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

FOURTH AUDITOR'S OFFICE, 26th January, 1824.

SIR: In obedience to the request contained in your letter of the 21st inst. enclosing a resolution of the House of Representatives, relative to the "Naval Hospital Fund," I have the honor to report:

That, from the 26th February, 1811, to the 31st December, 1823, there has been passed to the credit of said fund, on the books of this office, and those of the Accountant of the Navy, the sum of - - - - - \$ 187,918 81

To which must be added, a balance standing to the credit of the "Marine Hospital Fund," on the 26th February, 1811, and carried to the credit of the "Naval Hospital Fund," - - - - - 3,782 86

191,701 67

From this sum, is to be deducted amount of expenditures, to 30th September, 1821, 10,652 85

Moneys drawn, and placed in the hands of the Treasurer of the United States, 43,335 87

Money drawn, in September, 1823, for the payment of land purchased for a Naval Hospital site at Boston - - - 18,000 00

71,988 72

\$ 119,712 95

Leaving a balance, to the credit of the "Naval Hospital Fund," on the books of this office, on the 31st December, 1823, of one hundred and nineteen thousand seven hundred and twelve dollars, and ninety-five cents, the whole of which has been absorbed in the "Pay of the Navy," and for which the appropriation for that object is responsible.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

With great respect, your obedient serv't.

CONST. FREEMAN, *Auditor.*

The Hon. SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD,
Secretary of the Navy.

B.

Navy Hospital Fund.

Cr.

Dr.

To balance due N. H. Fund, - -	\$119,712 95 ⁵ / ₁₂	
By balance standing at the credit of the Navy Hospital Fund, on the 1st day of October, 1823, per report transmitted 29th October, 1823, - -		\$117,074 34 ⁵ / ₁₂
By amount carried to the credit of said fund, from the 1st day of October to the 31st day of December, 1823, -	2,638 61	
		\$119,712 95 ⁵ / ₁₂
By balance brought down, - -		\$119,712 95 ⁵ / ₁₂

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Fourth Auditor's Office, 26th January, 1824.

CONST. FREEMAN, Auditor.

