

on Revolutionary Pensions to ask information relative to the manner in which the act of 18th March, 1818, has been executed; ascertaining, as far as may be practicable, the class or classes of cases which it has been construed to embrace, and such as have been excluded from its provisions;—whether the objects contemplated by its passage have been, or probably will be, effected by the operations of the law, and, if not, whether it be susceptible of such amendments as will ensure the accomplishment of those objects;—Also, a statement of the number of certificates of pension, which have been issued under the said law; the number of cases suspended; the number rejected; and the number of applications received, that have not been acted upon."

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,
your most obedient servant.
JOSEPH BLOOMFIELD,
Chairman.

Congress Hall, Dec. 17, 1819.

War Department, 22d Dec. 1819.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 17th inst. inquiring "into the manner in which the act of the 18th March, 1818, has been executed, ascertaining as far as may be practicable the class or classes of cases, which it has been construed to embrace, and such as have been excluded from its provisions;"—I have the honor to enclose a copy of the regulations which have been adopted by the department to carry it into effect.

The act has invariably received a strict construction, and none have been intended to be admitted, but those who, under such construction, were believed to have served in the war of the revolution until the end thereof; or for the term of nine months or longer, at any period of the war, on the continental establishment; and who were in such "reduced circumstances in life" as to be "in need of assistance from their country for support;" to all of which facts, the oath of the party, and certificate of the judge have been required. Under which construction, the following classes of applicants have been excluded.

Those who are not in such reduced circumstances in life, as to need assistance from their country for support.

Those belonging to the general civil staff, the medical department. Under this head are included quarter masters not holding commissions in the line, but acting under warrants from the head of that branch of the staff; wagon-masters and wagoners; forage and barrack-masters; artificers, such as carpenters, &c. batteau men, employed in the quarter-master's department, in the transportation of troops or military stores.

Those who belonged to state troops, &c. military forces of every description, acting under the authority of, or commissioned by, the executive of a state, and not by Congress, and those who belonged to corps for local defenses; except such as were recognized, by the old Congress, as being on the continental establishment.

Those who served in privateers, transports, vessels bearing dispatches to foreign countries; as well as persons who served in civil capacities on board of national vessels of war, such as captains' clerks, &c. are also excluded.

Finally, those who, though they served nine months, did not so serve under one enlistment.

To answer that part of your enquiry "whether the objects contemplated by its passage have been, or probably will be, effected by the operations of the law; and, if not, whether it be susceptible of such amendments as will insure the accomplishment of those objects;" it will be proper to consider those who were intended to be benefited by the act in two different characters: 1st. Whether they were of the description of persons, and performed such military or naval service, as is contemplated by the act; and 2dly. Whether they are in the condition of life, as to property, which congress intended. It is believed that, under the first description, the object of the act, has been effected; and that very few frauds have been attempted. And of those it is believed that none, or very few, have proved ultimately successful. Great pains have been taken to collect all of the documents which could supply the place of those which were destroyed, when the war office was burnt; and with this view, a correspondence was opened with the executives of the original states, to obtain copies of those which were preserved in the archives of their respective states. When the defect of those in the department have been supplied, greater caution has been observed as to the proof of service. It will be proper here to observe that, at first, occasional errors were committed in determining the character of certain regiments or corps; and some were considered continental, which, on full enquiry, proved not to be so. Where such errors have been committed, they have been corrected, & those improperly admitted have been dropped from the list of pensioners. It is believed that the act has been less successfully executed in regard to the condition in life, as to property of those who have obtained pensions.

A very great number of communications have been received by the department, from respectable sources, which represented many of the pensioners to be in more affluent circumstances than that which the act contemplated. A memorandum was directed to be made of all such cases, in order that such as seemed to require it, might be inquired into. In some cases, where there appeared to be satisfactory proof of fraud or mistake, the pensioners have been dropped from the list. The impositions or mistakes, if they

exist, as it appears probable they do to a considerable extent, have taken place, notwithstanding the continued vigilance of the department. Imposition, as to the circumstances of the applicant, was early apprehended; and, to guard against it, the oath of the applicant, and the certificate of the judge, as to his reduced circumstances, though not expressly required by the act, were required by the regulations of the department. But it is obvious, where the judge has been careless, or has been imposed on by the applicant as to his property, the department can rarely have any means in its power to prevent the consequence, but from the informal information or impression of such persons as may feel an interest in the correct execution of the act. Even facts, thus communicated, have usually been received after the pension has been granted. There is another difficulty connected with the execution of this part of the act, of still greater magnitude. I refer to the various constructions which different judges give to the words, in such "reduced circumstances in life as to need the assistance of their country for support." It is believed the difference in the construction has been very great; nor has it been possible for the department to give specific instructions to them, as to their constructions, as the necessity of the applicant does not depend simply on the amount of property which he may possess, but on many other circumstances. His health and bodily strength, the number and ability of his family to aid in his support, the cheapness or dearness of articles of subsistence in the section of country in which he resides, and many other circumstances, have a strong bearing on it. In the midst of these difficulties, the necessity of the applicant must, in most cases, be left to the sound discretion of the judge.

I am not aware of any amendment, of which the act is susceptible, by which the uniformity of construction can be secured on the part of the judges, or imposition on them much diminished, unless it should be the intention of Congress to confine their bounty to the lowest grade of poverty. Any condition, above mere indigence, would admit of a latitude of construction; and it appears impossible to fix on a particular amount, in value, of property, to entitle the applicant to a pension, which would be just in its operation; or which would not involve great difficulty in its execution.

The number of pension certificates issued under the law amount to 16,270.

The number of claims received and acted on, are 28,151

The number of claims received and not acted on, are 404

28,555

It is impossible to state precisely how many have been absolutely rejected, or how many suspended, as in some cases, claims which have been suspended, have been finally rejected. If from the total number of claims admitted, be subtracted the total numbers received and acted on, the number suspended or rejected will be 11,881.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,
your obedient servant,

J. C. CALHOUN,
Hon. JOSEPH BLOOMFIELD,
Chairman of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, House of Representatives.

Rules and Regulations for substantiating Claims to Pensions, to be observed under the law of Congress of the 18th of March, 1818, viz:

Regulation of the 26th of March, 1818.

The commissions of officers and the discharges of the regular soldiers of the army of the Revolution, (if in existence) applying for pensions under the above act will, in every instance, be furnished to the War Department, and the signatures of the respective judges certifying in these cases, must be attested by the seal of the courts where such judges preside. The person applying for pensions to declare, under oath before the judge, that, from his reduced circumstances he needs the assistance of his country for support.

Regulation of the 27th May, 1818.

It is expected that the judges will certify, as well to the reduced circumstances, as to the continued service of nine months, required by the law of 18th of March, 1818; and pensions will invariably be refused, unless the declarations of the applicants shall be accompanied by such certificates. The applications for pensions belonging to New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, will be delayed, until further evidence of their service shall have been received from the several executive officers of the state.

Regulation of June, 1818.

In a case where the name of the applicant cannot be found on the rolls, the evidence required to substantiate his claim, is the deposition of two disinterested witnesses, as to the service and discharge of the applicant, corroborating his own statement. The magistrate who administers the oath, must certify to the credibility of the witnesses, and the official character and signature of the magistrate must be attested by the county clerk, under his seal of Office. [This rule has extended to such cases only as required regular extraordinary proof. In case, for example, where the rolls of a regiment in which the applicant served, were complete for the period at which he stated to have served, and his name could not be found, and in cases where the applicant's statement has not agreed with historical facts.]

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6.

Mr. Cobb, from the committee on the Public Buildings, reported a bill making appropriations to supply the deficiency in the appropriations heretofore made for the repairs of the Capitol and new public offices; which was twice read and committed.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting a statement of the expenditure and application of moneys drawn from the treasury on account of the navy, during the year ending September 30th; and of the unexpended balances of former appropriations remaining in the Treasury on the 1st October, 1819; which was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Darlington offered the following resolution for adoption:

Whereas, there appears to be considerable dissatisfaction among the inhabitants of the District of Columbia, who reside within the limits of the city of Washington, on account of the inconveniences to which they are subjected by the present mode of government in said district; and whereas, it is desirable that Congress should as far as practicable, be relieved from the duty of legislating in cases where it is at once burdensome in itself, and unacceptable to the people: Therefore,

Resolved, That the committee for the District of Columbia be instructed to enquire into the expediency of reorganizing and restoring to the states of Maryland and Virginia, respectively, all such portions of the territory of said District, not included within the limits of the city of Washington, as were derived from those states.

Mr. Darlington said he submitted this resolution, from a belief that an enquiry was necessary and proper. This house had refused to take measures towards organizing a territorial government within the District. It had also rejected a proposition to admit a delegate, to represent the people of the District, in Congress; and it was pretty evident that the inhabitants were not well satisfied with the manner in which they were legislated for by Congress. He could see no good reason for holding the people of this district in a species of vassalage, contrary to their wishes, and as it was only a proposition to enquire, he hoped the resolution might be adopted.

The question was put whether the house would now consider the resolution, and negatived.

Mr. Tucker, of Virginia, after offering some explanatory remarks, and some facts to show the expediency of his object, submitted the following motion, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary, be instructed to enquire into the expediency of making further provisions by law, for the custody of persons imprisoned under the authority of the laws of the United States.

Mr. Walker, of N. C. moved the following resolution, which was agreed to by a small majority:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to report to this house whether any, and if any, what, progress has been made in the civilization of the Indian tribes, and the sums of money, if any, which have been expended on that object, under the act of last session.

On motion of Mr. Butler, of Lou. it was Resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to enquire whether any, and if any, what, further provisions are necessary to define and punish the crime of piracy.

On motion of Mr. Randolph, it was Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to lay before this house a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the U. States, from the commencement of the Federal government until the 31st of December last, distinguishing the revenue derived from customs, internal taxes, direct tax, postage, public lands, and miscellaneous sources; and also classing the expenditures under the following heads: Military; viz: army, armaments, arms, arming the militia, detachments of militia, services of militia, services of volunteers; Indian department; Naval department; Foreign intercourse; Civil list; Miscellaneous; Civil expenses; Revolutionary pensions; Other pensions; exhibiting an aggregate of the receipts and expenditures for each year respectively.

The house then again, according to the order of the day, resumed, in committee of the whole, Mr. Taylor in the chair, the consideration of the bill providing for taking, the fourth census.—Mr. Smith's motion to provide for taking, with the census, an account of the various manufactures, being the question before the committee—

Mr. Smith, of Md. withdrew the amendment moved by him yesterday, and in lieu thereof offered a substitute somewhat modified; which, having been further modified on motion of Mr. Campbell, was agreed to.

Mr. Plumer, of N. H. then moved to amend the bill by inserting a provision, directing the enumeration and return of the trade, occupation, or employment of all males above the age of sixteen years.

This amendment was modified, on the motion of Mr. Smith, of N. C. so as to be confined to the number of persons engaged in agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, respectively; and, thus amended, it was agreed to by a small majority.

Mr. Rich moved that free colored persons be emancipated, and returned separately, with their ages classed in the same manner as slaves.

Mr. Smith, of Md. wished to know the policy of this informing, by official enumeration and publication, that class of population of their strength and numbers. What good was to grow out of it?

Mr. Clay observed that the amendment had been offered partly on his suggestion, and he could see no possible mischief in the provision. As to its policy, it would effect more completely one of the objects of taking a census, which was to show the comparative increase in all classes of our population, and enable the government to carry into effect more perfectly the purposes of the periodical enumeration. There was no part of the United States in such a condition, as related to this class of people as to render any mischief possible from such a provision.

Mr. Rich's motion was then agreed to—ayes 74.

On motion of Mr. Butler, of Lou. the bill was amended by adding the following section:

Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, that, in the census, when the superficial content of any county or parish shall exceed forty miles square and the number of inhabitants in said parish or county shall not exceed two thousand five hundred, the assistants shall be allowed, with the approbation of the judges of their respective districts or territories, such further compensation as shall be deemed reasonable, provided the same does not exceed three dollars for every fifty persons by them returned.

The committee then reported, their proceedings and the bill and amendments were ordered to be printed.

The House adjourned.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7.

On motion of Mr. Storrs, it was Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to lay before this house a statement of the amount paid in each year to the Marshal of the District of Columbia, for the expenses of holding Courts within the same, since the assumption of jurisdiction by congress over the said District, together with the amount paid, during the same period, to the Circuit Judges thereof.

On motion of Mr. Cooke, it was Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to report to this house the sums of money which have been actually paid since the peace establishment, to the General Officers and their staff, who are attached to the Army of the United States, specifying particularly on what account, to whom, and when, paid.

Mr. Butler, of N. H. moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on the Public Lands be instructed to enquire into the expediency of granting to each state a tract of land not exceeding one hundred thousand acres, for the endowment of an University in each state.

The house having agreed to consider the resolution,

Mr. Butler remarked that this proposition was not new; that it was before the house at the last session, when a report was made of it but not acted on. It was an enquiry of much importance, in many points of view, and he hoped his resolution would be adopted.

The resolution was agreed to.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter from the secretary of the Navy, transmitting the annual report of the Commissioners of the Navy pension fund.

The Speaker laid before the house another letter from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting the information required by the resolution of the 31st ult. in relation to the introduction of slaves into the United States, and of the measures adopted to prevent the same.

Both these communications were ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Taylor in the chair, on the bill granting a township of public land to the asylum for the deaf and dumb in the city of New York.

Mr. Clay, (Speaker) after stating his objections to the bill, moved, for the purpose of destroying it, to strike out the first section.

An earnest debate of considerable length followed, on the general merits of the bill and the expediency of the donation it proposed, in which Messrs. Clay, Randolph, Foot, Warfield, Holmes, Barbour, and Rhea, opposed the bill; Messrs. Meigs and Grass of New York advocating it.

The question was finally taken on striking out the first section, and carried by a large majority.

The committee then rose and reported the bill as amended to the house; and, after an ineffectual motion by Mr. Maclay to lay it on the table.

The house, after refusing the yeas and nays on the question, concurred in the amendment of the committee of the whole to strike out the first section, by which the bill is of course lost. And then Adjourned to Monday.

MONDAY JANUARY 10.

Numerous petitions were this morning presented, and referred to the consideration of various committees.

The following message was received from the President of the United States, by the hands of Mr. J. J. Monroe:

To the House of Representatives of the United States.

In compliance with a resolution of the house of Representatives, of the 14th of December, 1819, requesting me "to cause to be laid before it any information I may possess, respecting certain executions which were performed on the 14th of the United States since the year 1815, contrary to the laws and regulations provided for the government of the same." I transmit a report of the Secretary of War, containing a detailed account in relation to the object of the said resolution.

WASHINGTON, JAN 5 1820.

Accompanying the message was transmitted to the house the report from the War Department referred to, and sundry documents, all of which were read and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Cannon, of Tenn offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on Revolutionary Pensions, be instructed to enquire into the expediency of amending the law on the subject, so as to give soldiers and officers an equality, by all owing to each an equal portion of the bounty of the Government.

The house having agreed, by a bare majority to consider the resolution—

A short discussion took place, when the question was taken on the adoption of the resolution, and decided in the negative, 74 to 70.

On motion of Mr. Hendricks, it was Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be instructed to lay before this house an annual statement of the number of acres of land sold at the several land offices from its institution to the 30th September, 1819; of the monies accruing and the monies received from such sales; of the sums due the government and unpaid; and of the sales or forfeitures for non payment—keeping separate that part of the statement, which relates to the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, formerly the North Western territory.

Mr. Brevard of South Carolina, offered a resolution, with a preamble explanatory of its object, for directing the judiciary committee to enquire into the expediency of making further provision by law for giving to the judicial proceedings, &c. of each state, the same effect in all the states, as in that in which they originated.

Which resolution did not pass.

On motion of Mr. Fuller, of Massachusetts it was

Resolved, That the committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to consider the expediency of so far modifying the act, establishing a Board of Commissioners of the Navy, as to make the Secretary of the Navy, for the time being, the presiding officer of that Board; and also of so limiting the tenor of the commissions of the members thereof, as to secure the accumulating experience and talents of our Naval Commanders in that Department, by a periodical rotation in office.

On motion of Mr. Cooke, of Tenn it was Resolved, That the committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to consider the expediency of so far modifying the act, establishing a Board of Commissioners of the Navy, as to make the Secretary of the Navy, for the time being, the presiding officer of that Board; and also of so limiting the tenor of the commissions of the members thereof, as to secure the accumulating experience and talents of our Naval Commanders in that Department, by a periodical rotation in office.

Which resolution did not pass.

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hood of Maj. Bradford's post, he took cognizance of the affair, and appointed a day for the delivery of the prisoners at his post.

On the day appointed, the Osages came to receive the prisoners; the Cherokees came also, but came without their charge. They made excuses, which had no effect upon the major. He gave them a peremptory order to bring the prisoners in ten days. On the eighth they were all brought in but two, alleged to be sick. Sixteen horses were also restored. Thus a war has been prevented between these tribes; and the government has appeared under the honorable character of an impartial arbiter of their difficulties.

Enquirer.

We are assured by a Representative in Congress, that the following statement of facts may be relied upon as substantially true:

ZANESVILLE, OHIO, JAN. 5.

Specie payments in idea!—Mr. Samuel Cline, who was boring for salt, on his land on Salt Creek, about 11 miles from this town, having penetrated to the depth of 133 feet from the surface, came to something unusually hard and difficult to penetrate, and the hard substance, when raised to the surface by the process usually made use of in boring for salt, proved to be a metallic substance which excited no great curiosity for some time, till last week a quantity of this metallic substance was brought to Patnam, where it was tested by an ingenious silver-smith and analyzed by one of the most learned chemists in the Western country, and both unite in pronouncing the specimen offered them to be silver, nearly or quite as pure as the common silver coin now in circulation! It is ascertained that the stratum of silver, at the place where the auger penetrated, is 6 feet 7 inches thick. Some of our readers may wish to know how the thickness of the stratum was ascertained with so much precision. The instrument called the auger is from 12 to 18 inches in length, to which a pole of suitable size and convenient length is firmly attached, and as occasion requires, an additional pole is attached to the preceding one till they descend, in some instances, more than 500 feet in a rock which extends all through this part of the country, with generally, from 10 to 20 feet of good soil covering it. The depth of the rock is unknown, but as far as it has been penetrated is found to be mostly free or sand stone; but in boring it, whenever the auger strikes a stratum of flint, lime stone, or any other very hard substance, it is instantly known by those who manage the auger, and the auger pole is marked, and it is as easily known when they get through, and thus the thickness of any hard stratum is accurately ascertained.

A company is now forming to sink a shaft to the above mentioned ore.

Any person who may have specimens of the above metal, and will leave them at this office, shall be liberally compensated.

Express.

NEW YORK, JAN. 10.

A letter to a gentleman in this city, dated off the Balize, Dec. 7, states—the U. S. Revenue Cutter *Louisa*, capt. Loomis, had seized the British ship *Francis & Eliza*, of London, with two clearances, one from Margaretta, and the last from Falmouth, Jam. The latter subjected her to seizure under the Navigation Act of April, 1809, which prohibits all trade with British West India colonies, in English bottoms, or even touching at or clearing out from them. She is a fine ship of 350 tons, and carries 10 guns. There is no doubt she will be condemned. She is one of the ships that left England with troops for the Patriots of South America."

BOSTON, JAN. 5.

The friends of our Navy were yesterday gratified with a view of the best bower cable of the U. S. ship *Columbus*, borne through the streets on the shoulders of three hundred men, (preceded by music playing *Yankee Doodle*) from the patent cordage manufactory of Joseph N. Howe, Esq. to the lot of the packet schooner *Midas*, bound to the Potomac. It weighs upwards of seven tons, is 120 fathoms in length, 24 inches in circumference, and was laid up in 25 minutes. We understand that this cable has the strength of a 30 inch cable manufactured without the use of the patent machinery.—Pat.

BALTIMORE, JAN. 14.

LATEST FROM VALPARAISO.

The ship Governor Hawkins, Carr, (late Coffin) from Valparaiso, bound to Philadelphia, arrived in Hampton Roads, 10th inst. By a passenger who reached here yesterday evening, via Annapolis, information is received that the embargo on the Chilean fleet under Lord Cochrane, sailed 12th Sept. with a determination to destroy the Spanish fleet at Lima, being supplied with a large quantity of Congreve Rockets, &c. &c.

A Citizen of Ohio.

By a census lately taken, it appears that the population of the City of New York is 118,657. In 1731, when a census was taken by order of Rep Vandam, then President of the Province of New York, the population was 6,622. The increase, in 90 years, is nearly twelve fold.

THE REPOSITORY.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

On Monday the 10th inst. Mr. McWhorter reported a bill "Concerning the sale of property under executions and incumbrances," which was committed to a committee of the whole House, and ordered to be printed.

The Debate on the Missouri question has at length commenced in the Senate of the United States. The discussion has been brought on incidentally to the bill for the admission of Maine into the Union, it having been proposed, by way of amendment, to incorporate in the same bill a provision for the admission of Missouri into the Union, divested of the condition by which it has been proposed to exclude Slavery from the state to be erected in that territory. This question absorbs so much attention, that, until it is definitely settled, it may almost be said, no other business will be done in Congress.

It was well observed on this head yesterday, by Mr. Macon, that the appearance of the Senate Chamber attested the importance of the question actually depending. Never were the galleries and lobbies more crowded.

Nat. Intelligencer.

Yellow Stone Expedition.—It is scarcely necessary to invite the attention of the reader to the Official Exposition of the objects and expenses of this Expedition. After what has been said and surmised on this subject, there are few of our readers who will not, with us, be much surprised to learn, that an extra expense will have been incurred by these extensive and important movements of troops; and that it is even calculated that the Army will prove to be less expensive, thus employed, than if it had remained inactive in garrison.—Among the important documents before Congress at their present session, this is one of the most valuable.—ib.

Senator from New York.—Rufus King is elected, by nearly an unanimous vote, a Senator in Congress from the state of New York, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the expiration of his term of service on the 3d day of March last.—ib.

