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fortifications provided for by Congress and adapted to secure our shores from hostile invasion; The distribution of the fund of public gratitude and justice to the Pensioners of the Revolutionary war; The maintenance of our relations of peace and protection with the Indian tribes; And the internal improvements and surveys for the location of Roads and Canals, which during the last three sessions of Congress have engaged so much of their attention, and may engross so large a share of their future benefactions to our country.

By the act of the 29th of April, 1824, suggested and approved by my predecessor, the sum of thirty thousand dollars was appropriated for the purpose of causing to be made the necessary surveys, plans, and estimates of the routes of such roads and canals as the President of the United States might deem of national importance in a commercial or military point of view, or necessary for the transportation of the public mail—the surveys, plans, and estimates, for each, when completed, to be laid before Congress.

In execution of this act, a board of Engineers was immediately instituted, and have been since most assiduously and constantly occupied in carrying it into effect. The first object to which their labors were directed by order of the late President, was the examination of the country between the tide waters of the Potomac, the Ohio, and Lake Erie, to ascertain the practicability of a communication between them, to designate the most suitable route for the same, and to form plans and estimates in detail of the expense of execution.

On the 3d of February 1825, they made their first report, which was immediately communicated to Congress, and in which they declared that having maturely considered the circumstances observed by them personally, and carefully studied the results of such of the preliminary surveys as were then completed, they were decidedly of opinion that the communication was practicable.

At the last Session of Congress, before the board of Engineers were enabled to make up their second report, containing a general plan, and preparatory estimate for the work, the Committee of the House of Representatives upon Roads and Canals, closed the session with a report, expressing the hope that the plan and estimate of the board of Engineers might at this time be prepared, and that the subject be referred to the early and favorable consideration of Congress, at their present session.—That expected Report of the Board of Engineers is prepared, and will be forthwith laid before you.

Under the resolution of Congress authorizing the Secretary of War to have prepared a complete system of Cavalry Tactics of the United States, to be reported to Congress at the present session, a Board of distinguished Officers of the Army and of the Militia, has been convened, whose Report will be submitted to you, with that of the Secretary of War. The occasion was thought favorable for consulting the same Board, aided by the results of a correspondence with the Governors of the several States and Territories, and other citizens of intelligence and experience, upon the acknowledged defective condition of our Militia system, and upon the improvements of which it is susceptible. The report of the Board upon this subject is also submitted for your consideration.

In the estimates of appropriations for the ensuing year, upwards of five millions of dollars will be submitted for the expenditures to be paid from the Department of War. Less than two fifths of this will be applicable to the maintenance and support of the Army. A million and a half in the form of pensions, goes as a scarcely adequate tribute to the services and sacrifices of a former age; and a more than equal sum, invested in fortifications, or for the preparations of internal improvement, provides for the quiet, the comfort, and the happier existence of the ages to come. The appropriations to indemnify those unfortunate remnants of another race, unable alike to share in the enjoyments, and exist in the presence of Civilization, though swelling in recent years to a magnitude burdensome to the Treasury are generally not without their equivalent in profitable value; or serve to discharge the Union from engagements more burdensome than debt.

In like manner the estimate of appropriations for the Navy Department will present an aggregate sum of upwards of three millions of dollars. About one half of these, however, cover the current expenditures of the Navy in actual service, and one half constitutes a fund of national property, the pledge of our future glory and defence. It was scarcely one short year after the close of the late war, and when the burthen of its expenses and charges was weighing heaviest upon the

country, that Congress, by the act of 29th April, 1816, appropriated one million of dollars annually, for eight years, to the gradual increase of the Navy. At a subsequent period, this annual appropriation was reduced to half a million for six years, of which the present year is the last. A yet more recent appropriation the last two years for building ten Sloops of War, has nearly restored the original appropriation of 1816, of a million for every year. The result is before us all. We have twelve line of battle Ships, twenty Frigates, and Sloops of War in proportion; which, with a few months of preparation, may present a line of floating fortifications along the whole range of our coast, ready to meet any invader who might attempt to set foot upon our shores. Combining with a system of fortifications upon the shores themselves, commenced about the same time under the auspices of my immediate predecessor, and hitherto systematically pursued, it has placed in our possession the most effective sinews of war, and has left us at once an example and a lesson, from which our own duties may be inferred. The gradual increase of the Navy was the principle, of which the act of 29th April, 1816, was first development. It was the introduction of a system to act upon the character and history of our country for an indefinite series of ages. It was a declaration of that Congress to their constituents and to posterity, that it was the destiny and the duty of these Confederated States, to become in regular process of time, and by no petty advances, a great Naval Power. That, which they proposed to accomplish in eight years, is rather to be considered as the measure of their means, than the limitation of their design. They looked forward for a term of years, sufficient for the accomplishment of a definite portion of their purpose; and they left to their successors to fill up the canvass of which they had traced the large and prophetic outline. The ships of the line, and frigates which they had in contemplation, will be shortly completed. The time which they had allotted for the completion of the work is more than elapsed. It remains for your consideration, how their successors may contribute their portion of toil and of treasure, for the benefit of the succeeding age, in the gradual increase of our Navy. There is, perhaps, no part of the exercise of the Constitutional Powers of the Federal Government, which has given more general satisfaction to the people of the Union than this. The system has not been thus vigorously introduced, and hitherto sustained, to be now departed from, or abandoned. In continuing to provide for the gradual increase of the Navy, it may not be necessary or expedient to add for the present any more to the number of our ships; but should you deem it advisable to continue the yearly appropriation of half a million to the same objects, it may be profitably expended, in providing a supply of timber to be seasoned, and other materials for future use; in the construction of docks, or in laying the foundations of a School for Naval Education, as to the wisdom of Congress either of those measures may appear to claim the preference.—

Of the small portion of the Navy engaged in actual service during the peace squadrons have continued to be maintained in the Pacific Ocean, in the West India Seas, and in the Mediterranean to which has been added a small armament, to cruise on the Eastern coast of South America. In all they have afforded protection to our commerce, have contributed to make our country advantageously known to foreign nations, have honourably employed multitudes of our seamen in the service of their country, and have inured numbers of youths of the rising generation to lives of manly hardihood of nautical experience and skill. The piracies with which the West India Seas were for several years infested, have been totally suppressed. But in the Mediterranean they have increased in a manner afflictive to other nations, and but for the continual presence of our squadrons, would probably have been distressing to our own. The war which has unfortunately broken out between the Republic of Buenos Ayres and the Brazilian Government, has given rise to very great irregularities among the Naval officers of the latter by whom principles in relation to blockades, and to neutral navigation, have been brought forward, to which we cannot subscribe, and which our own commanders have found it necessary to resist. From the friendly disposition towards the United States constantly manifested by the Emperor of Brazil, and the very useful and friendly commercial intercourse between the United States and his dominions, we have reason to believe that the just reparation demanded for the injuries sustained by several of our citizens from some of his officers, will not be withheld. Abstracts from the recent dispatches of the commanders of our several squadrons, are com-

nicated with the Report of the Secretary of the Navy to Congress.

A Report from the Postmaster General is likewise communicated, presenting in a highly satisfactory manner the result of a vigorous, efficient, and economical administration of the Department. The revenue of the office, even of the year including the latter half of 1824, and the first half of 1825, had exceeded its expenditures by a sum of more than forty five thousand dollars. That of the succeeding year has been still more productive. The increase of the receipts, in the year preceding the first of July last, over that of the year before, exceed one hundred and thirty six thousand dollars, and the excess of the receipts over the expenditures of the year has swollen from forty five thousand to nearly eighty thousand dollars. During the same period, contracts for additional transportation of the mail, in stages, for about two hundred and sixty thousand miles, have been made, and for seventy thousand miles, annually on horseback.

Seven hundred new Post offices have been established within the year; and the increase of revenue within the last three years, as well as the augmentation of the transportation by mail, is more than equal to the whole amount of receipts, and of mail conveyance, at the commencement of the present century, when the seat of the General Government was removed to this place. When we reflect that the objects effected by the transportation of the mail are among the choicest comforts and enjoyments of social life, it is pleasing to observe that the dissemination of them to every corner of our country has outstripped in their increase even the rapid march of our population.

By the Treaties with France and Spain, respectively ceding Louisiana and Florida, provision was made for the security of land titles derived from the Governments of those nations. Some progress has been made and under the authority of various Acts of Congress, in the ascertaining establishment of those titles, but claims to a very large extent remain no less unadjusted. The public faith, no less than the just rights of individuals, and the interest of the community itself, appears to require further provision for the speedy settlement of those claims, which I therefore recommend to the care and attention of the Legislature.

In conformity with the provisions of the act of 20th May last, to provide for erecting a Penitentiary in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, three commissioners were appointed to select a site for the erection of a Penitentiary for the District, and also a site in the county of Alexandria for a county Jail; both of which objects have been effected. The building of the Penitentiary has been commenced, and is in such a degree of forwardness as to promise that it will be completed before the meeting of the next Congress. This consideration points to the expediency of maturing, at the present session, a system for the regulation and government of the Penitentiary, and of defining the class of offences which shall be punishable by confinement in this edifice.

In closing this communication, I trust that it will not be deemed inappropriate to the occasion and purpose upon which we are here assembled, to indulge a momentary retrospect, combining in a single glance, the period of our origin as a National Confederation with that of our present existence, at the precise interval of half a century from each other. Since your last meeting at this place, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the day when our independence was declared, has been celebrated throughout our land; and on that day when every heart was bounding with joy, and every voice was tuned to gratulation, amid the blessings of Freedom and Independence, which the sires of a former age had handed down to their children, two of the principal actors in that solemn scene, the hand that penned the ever memorable declaration, and the voice that sustained in debate, were, by one summons at the distance of seven hundred miles from each other, called before the Judge of all, to account for their deeds done upon earth. They departed cheered by the benedictions of their country, to whom they left the inheritance of their fame and the memory of their bright example. If we turn our thoughts to the condition of their country in the contrast of the first and last day of that half century, how resplendent and sublime is the transition from gloom to glory. Then glancing through the same lapse of time, in the condition of the individuals, we see the first day marked with the fullness and vigor of youth, in the pledge of their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honour, to the cause of freedom and of mankind. And on the last, extended on the bed of death, with but sense and sensibility left to breathe a last aspiration to Heaven of blessing upon their country;

may we not humbly hope that to them too,

it was a pledge of transition from glory; and that while their mortal remains were sinking into the cold valley, their emancipated spirits were ascending to the bosom of their God.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Washington, Dec. 5, 1826.

RESERVOIR.

We learn from the Lancaster Gap Licking summit, contracted for by Mr. Sheather, of Rochester, New York, is now completed.—It contains an area of about 100 acres, and the embankment, necessary for its completion, two miles and 32 chains length, and is intended to supply the main line of canal with water in dry seasons. The embankment with a wall of hewn timber in the centre of the bank, cost the state about \$30,000 dollars. Sheather has acquired considerable fame for his experience, industry, and perseverance.—*Ohio State Journal.*

BIRCHWOOD.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1826.

Two weeks ago we sent to Cincinnati for paper, and have not yet received it. Whether we shall in time for next week is extremely uncertain. This we do much regret; but our readers must not impute the blame to us if we issue no paper.

INDIANA LEGISLATURE.

A bill had passed both Houses for the election of Circuit Prosecutors by ballot of the two Houses, and reduced their salary to \$150 per annum, except the Prosecutor in the 5th Circuit, who is paid \$200. The Legislature will now have five Prosecutors to elect this session.

A bill had passed the first reading in the Senate, organizing two new Judicial circuits. Should this become a law, we shall have three terms annually of the Circuit Court.

A bill was introduced into the House of Representatives, to attach part of Wayne to Fayette county—but it was rejected by a large majority:—And there is now a bill attaching part of Union to Franklin.

Bills are in progress for the formation of two new counties.

A resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives, by a majority of 40 to 10, to reduce the number of musters, and no fines; and the committee on Military Affairs were instructed to report a bill to that effect.

A resolution was introduced into the House, appointing a committee to inquire into the expediency of selling on a credit the University lands in Gibson and Monroe counties.

Resolutions were adopted by the House of Representatives, relative to the law for the relief of the poor; to allowing a premium for killing wolves; to amending the Militia and Road laws; to extending the jurisdiction of justices of the peace in penal cases where the penalty does not exceed twenty dollars; to repealing that part of the law regulating marriages which requires Clerks to issue licenses; and to authorising appeals from Justices' decisions to the Supreme Court.

A joint resolution had passed the same House relative to procuring the consent of Congress to sell the lands reserved for the use of salt springs, and to invest the proceeds in a permanent stock for the promotion of education.

Mr. Rariden introduced a bill into the Senate establishing County Seminaries.

Committees were appointed in the Senate, to inquire into the propriety of purchasing for the State all the lands of Congress within its bounds; and of soliciting Congress to authorise the State to sell the school sections. [It is our opinion that this course is unnecessary.]

A joint resolution passed the first reading in the Senate, on the subject of so mending the Constitution of the United States as to deprive Congress of all influence in the election of President. [It had been hoped that the mania for amending the Constitution had ceased, and that the public councils would no longer be uselessly agitated by such propositions.]

Articles of impeachment have been referred by the House of Representatives against Thomas H. Roberts, a justice of the