LETTER
FROM
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,
TO THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS
ON THE
SUBJECT OF THE APPROPRIATION
FOR
THE MILITARY SERVICE OF UNITED STATES, FOR THE YEAR 1819,
ACCOMPANYING
A BILL MAKING APPROPRIATIONS
FOR
THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THE SAME YEAR.

December 22, 1818.
Read, and with the bill committed to a committee of the whole House to-morrow.

WASHINGTON:

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1818.
SIR,

I have received your three letters of the 16th and 17th instant, in relation to the estimates of the War Department, for the year 1819; in answer to which, I respectfully submit for the consideration of the committee, the reports and statements on which the estimates were formed. It is believed, that they will afford a much fuller and more satisfactory view of the reasons which governed the Department, in determining the amount of the respective appropriations which have been asked for, than could be presented within the ordinary limits of a letter. The documents are so voluminous, that, to avoid the trouble of copying, I have transmitted the originals; and I must request of you to return them, after the committee shall have done with them. Should it be thought advisable to lay any part of them before the House, they can be copied for that purpose.

Under the head of pay of the army, it is estimated that there will be a probable balance, at the end of the year, of about $300,000; and, consequently, that sum may be deducted from the appropriation for the ensuing year.

Orders have been given to suspend the works at Rouse's point, until the line between the United States and Lower Canada shall be determined. The sum of $200,000, which was estimated for it, will probably not be required; and may be omitted in the appropriation for fortifications.

Since the estimates were formed, the contracts under the new system, for supplying the army with provisions, after the first of June next, have been completed; and, it is ascertained, that a reduction may be made under the head of subsistence. The contract system will terminate on the 1st of June next. To complete the deliveries under the present contracts, until that time, will probably require the sum of $303,441; and it is estimated that the expense of subsistence, from the 1st of June, 1819, at which time the system of supplying the army by commissaries will commence, until the 1st of June 1820, cannot exceed $503,700; but, as four-fifths of the rations will be required, by the terms of the contracts, to be delivered between the 1st of June, 1819, and the 1st of January, 1820, the sum of $403,160; will be necessary to meet the deliveries in 1819; and, consequently, the whole appropriation required, for the next year, under this head, will be $706,601, instead of $853,125, the sum stated in the estimate.

On a review of the estimate for clothing, it is believed, that the sum of $400,000 will be ample; and, consequently, $30,000 may be subtracted from the estimate.
Document marked E, will show on what grounds the sum of $50,000, is asked for the medical, and hospital department. On the 1st of January last, it was estimated that there was a balance of $15,000, which, added to the sum appropriated for the current year, viz: $15,000, makes $30,000, as applicable to the service of this year; in addition to which, there was transferred to this item, by order of the President, during the present year, the sum of $50,000. The disbursements in the medical and hospital department, will probably not fall short of $70,000, during the present year.

By the statement from the Ordnance Department marked G, it will appear that no new contract has been made during the present year for cannon, except with Wirt and Clark; and, consequently, the estimates under that item, are on account of old contracts, and will be necessary to meet the engagements under them. It will also appear that the sum of $70,000, instead of $50,000, will be required for the arsenal at Augusta. The estimate for the arsenal at Frankfort, is to complete the works commenced there.

The appropriations already made of $200,000, on account of subsistence, and $50,000, for arrearages, for holding Indian treaties, will, of course, be deducted from their respective items in the general appropriation.

There will probably be a balance under the head of bounties and premiums of near $30,000, which sum will be applicable to the service of the ensuing year, and may be taken from the sum contained in the estimates.

The appropriations made for the current expenses of the army, for the year 1818, amounted to $3,599,245, which, of course, excludes the disbursements for fortifications and ordnance, which are of a permanent nature. The appropriation asked for the current expenses of the year 1819, excluding the same disbursements, and estimating the expense of subsistence, under the new system of supplying the army, for seven months only, (viz: from the 1st of June, 1819, until the 1st of January, 1820,) amounts to $3,077,789, making a difference of $521,456.

The estimates have been formed on the supposition of our military establishment being full, which, in that case, would consist of $12,656 officers, noncommissioned officers, musicians, and privates.

If further information should be required, it will afford me pleasure to give it.

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient servant,

J. C. CALHOUN.
ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,

October 12, 1818.

SIR,

Agreeably to four orders of 29th August, 5th and 25th of September, I have the honor to present the subjoined report and estimates of the sums, which will be required to be appropriated for the engineer department, for the year 1819, comprising the following heads and amounts:

Fortifications as per statement and schedule A $838,000 00
Military academy, B $35,640 00
Engineer office, C $3,990 00
Arrearages D $3,440 00
Survey of western waters, E $6,500 00

Total amount of dollars, $887,570 00

A.

FORTIFICATIONS.

It has been determined by the War Department, that the fortifications which may be hereafter constructed upon the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico frontiers, shall be permanent works and of dimensions adequate to the defence of the positions or passes which they may occupy. This mode of construction is the best calculated to secure the object for which fortifications are erected upon the extreme sea coast of the Union, namely; to protect the important and valuable points; it is also true economy. The expense once incurred upon the above principle, will not require to be repeated. An important variation in the mode of conducting the disbursement on account of fortifications, has also been commenced by order of the War Department; to wit: in lieu of the common mode of purchasing
materials, and hiring artizans to put them together in the works, the whole works are to be contracted for, to be erected and finished for a specified sum; the contractors furnishing any material and workmanship—sufficient bonds being taken to ensure a faithful execution of the contract under the supervision and direction of an officer of engineers. In relation to the foregoing principles, the following works are to be constructed, viz: On the Gulf of Mexico frontier at (No. 1.) Barrataria, on the west end of Grand Terre, commanding the entrance into Barrataria bay, (No. 2,) Placquimine turn on the banks of the Mississippi river, sixty miles below New Orleans, (No. 3,) Bayon Bien Venue, near lake Borgne, covering the approach to New Orleans through that lake.

No. 4, Chef. Menteur. } These two works are to be upon the margin of the passes into Lake Ponchartrain, to cover the approach of the rear of New Orleans and the country above.

No. 5, Regolets. } These two works command the entrance into Mobile bay. The whole expense of these works will be three millions of dollars. Of the above mentioned, the most important have been contracted for, to wit: Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7. These four works will cost dollars 1,800,000, and are to be completed within four years.

Dauphin island, 632,000 dolls. to mount 118 cannon
Mobile point, 632,000 dolls. do. 118 do.
Rigolet, 268,000 do. do. 64 do.
Chef Menteur, 268,000 do. do. 64 do.

Total amount $1,800,000 364 cannon.

Consequently for the year 1819, it will be necessary to appropriate for these four works from the fund on hand, and which may be appropriated $450,000. Two of the contractors for the above, have left the Atlantic states, with artizans and cargoes of materials, to commence the works, in the ensuing December, under the directions of officers of the corps of engineers.

CHESAPEAKE BAY.

The fortifications to be constructed in this important estuary, and at the mouth of the ______ which disembouge into the bay, are depending upon some contingencies not yet adjusted; they have, however, been so far settled as tenable; the government to determine to fortify the entrance into Hampton Roads, at Old Point Comfort, and upon the Rip Rap Shoal. The work contemplated for Old Point Comfort is to mount 250 cannon, and the one upon the Rip Rap Shoal to mount 250 cannon. These extensive works will cost about $3,000,000. The contracts entered into will require an appropriation for the year 1819, from the fund on hand, and from what may be
appropriated, amounting to $330,000. The contracts are made for the foundation of the work upon the Rip Rap Shoal, and for Old Point Comfort; the work at the former place is progressing; about two millions of brick, and about twenty thousand perch of building stone are collected at Old Point Comfort, under the care of an officer of engineers. The work at this position will commence next spring; of the other contemplated works in Chesapeake bay, between the Middle Ground and Horse Shoe, or Fork river, St. Mary’s and Baltimore, I refer to the report upon that subject, made by the board of engineers.

DELAWARE BAY.

The key to the water approach by this bay is the Pea Patch; an enclosed work has been recommended and adopted for this position, to mount 120 cannon, which will cost $300,000. For the year 1819, I recommend that $100,000 be appropriated from the fund on hand, and from what may be appropriated. The work is progressing under the direction of an officer of engineers, who will have completed the foundation of this work in the course of a few weeks. The foundation is altogether of piles, the Pea Patch being an island of soft mud. Stone are collecting to commence the superstructure of this work at the opening of the next spring. To complete the defence of this pass, it will be necessary to occupy with works, the shoals of the adjacent Delaware and New Jersey shores; and to aid the whole, two steam batteries will be requisite; as this part of the plan is not yet mature, I shall not recommend any further appropriation, for the pass, for the year 1819.

NEW YORK HARBOR.

The only work now progressing in this harbor, is a castellated tower, building at the narrows upon Hendrick’s reef; it will mount 96 cannon, and will cost $275,000; it is more than half finished, and can be completed in the year 1819, and will require $110,000 to be appropriated. The other positions which must of necessity be occupied to complete the defence of New York, are, 1st, Sandy Hook, 2d, Staten Island, 3d. West end of Long Island; 4th, Brooklyn Heights, and 5th, Frog Point near the Sound; the estimates for these works not being completed, I shall not recommend any specific appropriation for them.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

The positions which it has been thought necessary to occupy at the northern extremity of this lake, are Rouse’s and Island Points, in the vicinity of each other, and of the boundary line between the United States and Canada. The whole of these works being contemplated to withstand a siege, and will mount nearly 300 pieces of cannon. For these works, for the year 1819, I recommend that
§ 200,000 be appropriated. The works have been commenced under the direction of an engineer officer, and are now progressing. I do not at this time recommend any appropriation for the positions at the eastern extremity of Long Island, Rhode Island, Boston, Portsmouth, Portland, or Penobscot harbors, or for those positions which are south of Chesapeake bay, on the Atlantic frontier; because the board of engineers have not yet had opportunity to examine and report in relation to them.

The following statement, and recapitulation of the foregoing items, will show that it will be necessary to appropriate dollars 838,000 for fortifications for the year 1819, in addition to the unexpended fund which will be on hand, 31st Dec. 1818. The reason why this unexpended balance remains on hand, will be obvious, when it is considered that the works contemplated, when the last appropriation was made, have not been commenced, because the plans of them were not fully determined upon until late in the current year, to wit:

Gulf of Mexico frontier - - - - $450,000
Chesapeake Bay - - - - 330,000
Delaware Bay - - - - 100,000
New York Harbor - - - - 110,000
Lake Champlain - - - - 200,000

To which sum I add the difference between it and the amount of the subjoined statement, (1,438,000) which difference will be required for such new works, as may be adopted from the surveys which are now making, and the contingencies attending the same - - - - 248 000

$ 1,488,000

Statement of the unexpended balance of Fortification Fund.

On hand 16th April, 1818 - - - - $ 1,038,289 82
Amount expended to 6th October, 1818, as per report F - - $ 362,030 00
Amount that will probably be expended by the 31st Dec. 1818 75,259 82

$ 438,289 82

Amount of fortification fund on hand, unexpended 31st December, 1818 - - - - $ 600,000 00
To this sum I add the amount which is recommended to be appropriated for the year 1819 - - 838,000 00

$ 1,438,000 00
Estimate of the expenditures necessary to be made at the Military Academy, in the year 1819.

For quarters for the superintendent  
Four houses for professors and teachers, at $3,900 each  
Stationery  
Books and library  
Fuel for 80 cadet's rooms,  
For the staff steward, offices, bombardiers and guard

1,640 cords at $5 2/3, and 1/3 for distributing

Repairs
Contingencies

Amount of fund on hand, 16th April, 1818  
Probable expenditure to 31st December, 1818

Amount necessary to be appropriated for the year 1819

N. B. The two first items in the above estimate, for the military academy, amounting to $20,600, are for buildings long since contemplated. They are required for the comfortable accommodation of the officers of that institution. The existing buildings do not afford the room, required. As the buildings will be of a permanent structure, it will be seen that the current annual expense of the academy, will be reduced to $18,840.

Estimate of the expense of an office, for the Engineer Department, for the year 1819.

Rent of an office until 1st of June, 1819, four rooms: one for the chief engineer; one for the clerks; one for maps, plans, books, &c.; and one for drawing  
Hire for two clerks $1,000, and $1,200  
Fuel for 7 months  
Books, maps, and stationery  
Advertisement

$ 3,990 00
**D.**

*Estimate of arrearages, in forming the Engineer Department at Washington.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office rent</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk hire, 8 months at $90</td>
<td>$720.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For the purchase of maps, charts, and plans, by order of the War Department</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationery, tables, chairs, drawing boards, advertisements, &amp;c.</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** $3,440.00

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**E.**

*Estimate of the expense of making a survey of the water courses, tributary to, and west of the Mississippi, also of those tributary to the same river, and northwest of the Ohio river.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For a small steam boat to draw 18 inches of water, with the requisite equipment for the voyage</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For astronomical and surveying instruments, and stationery</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingencies</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** $6,500.00

Respectfully submitted,

J. G. SWIFT,

*Chief Engineer.*

Honorable J. C. Calhoun,

*Secretary of War.*