

[2d CONGRESS.]

No. 37.

[1st SESSION.]

REMISSION OF DUTIES.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 20, 1792.

The Secretary of the Treasury, to whom was referred the memorial of Eliphalet Ladd, respectfully makes the following report thereupon:

It has been made a question, whether, under the laws of the United States, as they now stand, duties are payable on goods imported in vessels which have suffered shipwreck in the act of transportation. A suit, in which this question is involved, is depending in one of the courts of the United States.

But the terms of the law have rendered it the duty of the officers of the customs to advance the claim, which has been done on all the occasions that have hitherto occurred.

The casualty of shipwreck is so affecting a calamity, and is usually attended with such considerable loss to the concerned, that the exacting from the sufferers the public dues on the articles which escape, is apt to be regarded as partaking of severity and oppression.

The provision for the case of damaged goods is not, always, a sufficient remedy. It may happen that the goods saved are not damaged, though a large proportion may have been entirely lost.

It would seem, upon the whole, expedient, either entirely to remit the duties in every case of shipwreck, or to vest somewhere a power, either to remit, or abate, according to the circumstances of each case.

The last would best consist with a due apportionment of the degree of relief to the degree of suffering. From the rareness of the casualty, the loss to the revenue, from either arrangement, could not be very material.

The case stated in the petition appears to be a strong one for relief.

All which is humbly submitted.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON, *Secretary of the Treasury.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *April 19, 1792.*

[2d CONGRESS.]

No. 38.

[2d SESSION.]

SINKING FUND.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, NOVEMBER 19, 1792.

The Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate, the Chief Justice, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney General, respectfully report to the Congress as follows:

That, pursuant to the act, entitled "An act making provision for the reduction of the public debt," and in conformity to resolutions agreed upon by them, and severally approved by the President of the United States, they have, since their last report, caused purchases of the said debt to be made, through the agency of Samuel Meredith, Treasurer of the United States, and William Seton, Cashier of the Bank of New York, respectively, to the amount of three hundred and twenty-five thousand three hundred and seventy-eight dollars and sixty-two cents, for which there have been paid two hundred and forty-two thousand six hundred and eighty-eight dollars and thirty-one cents, in specie, as will more particularly appear by the several documents herewith submitted, marked A, B, C.

That, pursuant to the act, entitled "An act supplementary to the act making provision for the debt of the United States," and in conformity to resolutions agreed upon by them, and severally approved by the President of the United States, they have also caused purchases of the said debt to be made, through the agency of Samuel Meredith, Treasurer of the United States, to the amount of thirty-eight thousand seven hundred and fourteen dollars and fifty-one cents; for which there have been paid twenty-five thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine dollars and ninety-six cents, in specie, as will more particularly appear by the document herewith submitted, marked D.

An abstract of the whole of which purchases is contained in the statement E, herewith also reported, amounting to three hundred and sixty-four thousand and ninety-three dollars and thirteen cents; for which there have been paid two hundred and sixty-eight thousand six hundred and fifty-eight dollars and twenty-seven cents, in specie.

That the said several documents, marked A, B, C, D, (which are submitted as part of this report) shew in detail the places where, the times when, the prices at which, and the persons of whom, the purchases aforesaid have been made.

That the purchases now and heretofore reported, amount together to one million four hundred and ninety-five thousand four hundred and fifty-seven dollars and eighty-nine cents; for which there have been paid, nine hundred and sixty-seven thousand eight hundred and twenty-one dollars and sixty-five cents, in specie; and for which credits have been passed on the books of the treasury, as will be more particularly seen by the certified statement herewith also submitted, marked F.

On behalf of the Board.

TH: JEFFERSON.

B a.

A Statement of the Income and Expenditures of the United States, from the commencement of the present Government, to the end of the year 1792.

Amount of duties on imports and tonnage, and of fines, penalties, and forfeitures, as per account of receipts and expenditures to the end of the year 1791, reported to the House of Representatives the 10th of November, 1792,		\$ 6,534,263 84	By amount of expenditures to the end of the year 1791, as per account of receipts and expenditures to the end of that year, reported to the House of Representatives the 10th of November 1792,	\$ 3,797,436 78
Sundry contingent funds received, viz:			Amount of expenditures during the year 1792, as per general account of receipts and expenditures, herewith transmitted, marked A,	8,967,692 05
For fines and forfeitures, &c.	334 82			12,765,128 83
For balances due on accounts, which originated under the late Government,	11,001 11	11,335 93	Cash in the treasury, as per general account of receipts and expenditures, herewith transmitted, marked A,	783,444 51
Product of duties on spirits distilled within the United States for a half year, ending the 31st December, 1791, as estimated,		150,000 00	Cash in the Bank of the United States, and the offices of discount and deposite of New York and Baltimore, per account rendered by the bank, herewith transmitted, marked AB,	605,883 08
Product of duties on imports and tonnage for the year 1792, as estimated,		3,900,000 00	Amount remaining in deposite in the Bank of North America, being the proceeds of bills on Amsterdam, and including the sum of 156,595 56 loaned without interest, stated as a receipt per contra,	177,998 80
Product of duties on spirits distilled within the United States, for the same period, as estimated,		400,000 00	Proceeds of bills on Amsterdam, not yet received,	614,593 02
Receipts into the treasury, as stated in the general abstract of receipts and expenditures, herewith transmitted, marked A, viz:			Amount of duties on spirits distilled within the United States, uncollected, and remaining in the hands of the revenue officers, being the difference between the estimated product of said duties, and the sums received to the end of the year 1792,	341,057 19
A loan from the Bank of North America, without interest,	156,595 56		Cash in hands of collectors, at the close of the year 1792, agreeably to the last returns received at the treasury,	151,851 25
A loan from the Bank of the United States, on interest,	400,000 00		Amount of bonds for duties on imports, unpaid at the end of the year 1792, and falling due between that time and May, 1794, [see abstract marked E.]	2,442,069 15
do. do. do.	2,000,000 00			
Value of bills of exchange drawn by the treasurer, on the commissioners in Amsterdam, for the purpose of effecting a subscription to the capital stock of the Bank of the United States,	2,000,000 00			
Excess of the first half yearly dividend, on the capital stock of the Bank of the United States, held by the United States, beyond the interest payable to the bank,	8,028 00			
Balances due on accounts which originated under the late Government,	4,702 82			
For arms and accoutrements,	4,240 00			
For fines, penalties, and forfeitures,	118 00			
For balances on moneys advanced under the present Government,	5,629 88			
Deduct re-payments made by Jeremiah Olney, and Joseph Nourse, as stated in the account of receipts and expenditures to the end of the year 1791, which re-payments are deducted from the expenditures of 1791, and are also credited in the general account of receipts and expenditures herewith transmitted, marked A,	857 83	4,772 05		
Amount of bills drawn and disposed of, upon our commissioners in Holland, on account of foreign loans, as per statement No. 3, reported to the House of Representatives, January 3d, 1793,		4,578,456 43		
To which add, for an error in stating the amount of interest, which arose on the credit allowed to purchasers, by the Banks of North America and New York,				
		2,304,769 13		
		1,000 00		
		2,305,769 13		
Total amount,		\$ 17,879,825 33		\$ 17,882,025 83

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *February 4th, 1793.*ALEXANDER HAMILTON, *Secretary of the Treasury.*

ESTIMATED REVENUE OF THE YEAR 1794.

Balance stated on December 31st, 1793, as surplus of revenue beyond the appropriations charged at the treasury, to said period,	\$2,487,181 07
Proceeds of duties on imports and tonnage during the year 1794, exclusive of drawbacks paid, and payable, therefrom,	5,250,000 00
Proceeds of duties on distilled spirits, on snuff, sugar, carriages, goods sold at auction, licences, estimated at	450,000 00
Receipts to the 30th September, 1794, viz:	
On account of balances arising on accounts under the late Government,	\$693 50
Postage,	18,978 49
Cents and half cents,	8,383
Patents,	390
Dividends on bank stock of the United States, to June 30th, 1794,	303,472
	331,916 99
	\$8,519,098 06

B.

ESTIMATED CHARGES UPON THE REVENUE FOR THE YEAR 1795.

Appropriations for the service of the year 1795, made and to be made, viz:	
By the act of March 20th, 1794, for expenses of intercourse with foreign nations, in virtue of the act of July 1st, 1790, further continued by this act,	\$40,000
For the civil lists, as stated by the Register of the Treasury,	435,249 53
For miscellaneous purposes, ditto,	32,004 13
For expenses of Commissioners of Loans, for clerk hire, and stationary, in case the same shall be authorized by law,	15,000
For interest on the domestic and assumed debts, and on credits to several States,	2,395,741 74
For interest on the foreign debt during the year 1795,	702,861
For interest on temporary domestic loans during the year 1795, estimated at \$2,000,000, at five per cent. per annum,	100,000
For the military establishment during the year 1795, including six months' pay and subsistence of the navy, and expenses of the militia expedition in 1794,	2,940,655 74
	\$6,661,512 14
Balance, being estimated surplus of revenue to the close of the year 1795;	510,913 24
	\$7,172,425 38

NOTE. The surplusses of certain appropriations, after satisfying the objects for which they were made, may be considered as an additional fund. The amount cannot be ascertained at present, but may be safely calculated at two hundred thousand dollars.

ESTIMATED REVENUE OF THE YEAR 1795.

Estimated surplus of revenue at the close of the year 1794, above the appropriations charged thereon,	\$842,425 38
Estimated product of the duties on imports and tonnage for the year 1795, on a supposition that the additional duties imposed during the last session of Congress, will produce \$500,000,	5,500,000
Estimated product of inland duties for the year 1795, on distilled spirits, and on stills, which, considering the impediments attending the importation of molasses and coarse sugars, and the high price of grain, at present, are calculated at	400,000
On carriages,	150,000
On sales at auction,	40,000
On refined sugars and snuff,	90,000
On licences for retailing foreign spirits and wines,	100,000
	780,000
Estimated surplus of the bank dividend, on stock held by the United States, above the sum which will be due for interest on the loan for said stock,	50,000
	\$7,172,425 38

REMISSION OF DUTIES.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DECEMBER 16, 1794.

Mr. PARKER, from the Committee to whom was referred the petition of Isaac Taylor and John Harvey, merchants of Newbern, North Carolina, praying for a remission of the duties on a quantity of rum, sugar, and coffee, that was consumed by fire, made the following report:

That the said Isaac Taylor and John Harvey had imported five hogsheads of rum, five hogsheads and six barrels of sugar, and one barrel of coffee, in the sloop Rainbow, from St. Martin's; which articles had been entered at the custom house at Newbern, and the duties thereon had been paid, or secured to be paid, agreeably to law.

That the said articles were consumed by fire, on the 26th of October, and 16th of November last; your committee submit the following resolution.

Resolved, That the collector of the port of Newbern should be authorized to remit to Isaac Taylor and John Harvey, the duties on five hogsheads of rum, five hogsheads and six barrels of sugar, and one barrel of coffee, entered by them in sloop Rainbow, from St. Martin's, and consumed by fire on the 26th of October, and 16th of November last.