

The title of the act is, "An act to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage." The first section provides "that from and after the 30th of June, 1816, the duties heretofore levied by law on goods, wares, and merchandise, imported into the United States shall cease, and there shall be paid the several duties hereinafter mentioned." Thus far the act is in unison with the act of February the 5th, 1816. Both agree in the 30th of June, 1816, as the date when the *old* duties are to cease; that is, the duties upon imports.

It will be recollected that these old duties, or, in the words of the act, "the duties heretofore levied by law," were the double duties. Further, on the day before the 27th of April, 1816, it was the act of February the 5th, 1816, in connexion with all the other acts upon that subject previous to its date, which made up the whole existing law relative to duties upon imports.

Now, had the first section of the act of April 27, 1816, above quoted, coupled the subject of tonnage with that of duties upon imports, the case would have been free of difficulty. The legal construction would then have harmonized with the presumed policy of the nation. But it has not. As the subjects are held up as distinct in the title, so they are also kept distinct in the body of the act. Tonnage is no where mentioned in it until we get to the sixth section. It is then brought into view as a subject distinct from the duties on imports. The latter, by the first section, are to take effect from and after the 30th of June, 1816. The tonnage, by the sixth section, is to be and remain as by the *existing law* provided.

These are the views I have formed upon the subject, and which I have endeavored to compress within the shortest limits compatible with clearness. The result is, that I think that the additional duty of one dollar and fifty cents per ton imposed by the act of July the 1st, 1812, is continued by the act of February the 5th, 1816, and that of April the 27th, 1816. That it is, therefore, still payable in conjunction with the original duty, by all vessels of foreign construction and ownership, unless, indeed, they be protected by stipulations of treaty.

I will take the liberty to subjoin that I have understood that the additional foreign tonnage duty has been collected during the last summer, under the sanction of the Treasury Department. The question was new to me until within a month. I, at first, supposed it not demandable; but this impression yielded to a more careful examination of the subject.

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

RICHARD RUSH,
Attorney General.

Honorable JAMES MONROE, *Secretary of State.*

DEAR SIR:

WASHINGTON, November 16, 1816.

After carefully looking over the enclosed letter I am not aware that it takes any ground which our conversation of a day or two past did not anticipate; and, upon the whole, I retain all the scruples which I then had against Mr. Dallas's construction. Indeed, I am forced to say that they are rather strengthened. The "law," or the "existing law" upon the tonnage duty, on the 27th of April, 1816, was manifestly that of the 5th of February preceding. This latter act, it is true, is, in its own body, limited to the 30th June, 1816. But it was, notwithstanding, in the power of a future act to give it, or any part of it, perpetuity. This, I think, has been done, so far as tonnage is concerned, by the 6th section of the act of the 27th of April, 1816. It may have been done incautiously, but still it has been done. The act, too, of February 5, 1816, though passed only to continue the operation of a former one, is possessed of as full power, (when taken in connexion with the 6th section of that of April 27, 1816,) to regulate and ascertain permanently the duty upon tonnage, as if it had been an act of original legislation upon the subject.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, &c.,

RICHARD RUSH.

Hon. W. H. CRAWFORD, *Secretary of the Treasury.*

14th CONGRESS.]

No. 490.

[2d SESSION.

STATE OF THE FINANCES.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DECEMBER 20, 1816.

In obedience to the directions of the act supplementary to the act entitled "An act to establish the Treasury Department," the Secretary of the Treasury respectfully submits the following report and estimates:

REVENUE.

The nett revenue arising from duties on merchandise and tonnage, internal duties, direct tax, public lands, postage, and incidental receipts which accrued during the year 1814, amounted to - - \$11,500,606 25
And that which accrued from the same sources during the year 1815, amounted to - - 49,893,219 02

		VIZ:	
Customs, as appears by statement,	-	-	A, \$36,643,598 77
Internal duties,	-	-	B, 5,963,225 88
Direct tax,	-	-	C, 5,723,152 25
Public lands,	-	-	1,287,959 28
Postage and incidental receipts,	-	-	275,282 84
			<u>\$49,893,219 02</u>

The revenue which has accrued from the same sources during the three first quarters of the year 1816, and that which will accrue during the remaining quarter, is estimated to amount to - \$38,650,000 00

VIZ:	
Customs, - - - - -	\$30,000,000 00
Internal duties, - - - - -	4,150,000 00
Direct tax (nett proceeds) - - - - -	2,700,000 00
Public lands (exclusive of the receipts in the Mississippi Territory,) - - - - -	1,500,000 00
Postage and incidental receipts, - - - - -	300,000 00
	<u>\$38,650,000 00</u>

The receipts in the Treasury from the same sources during the year 1816, are estimated at - 46,900,000 00

VIZ:	
Customs, - - - - -	\$36,000,000 00
Direct tax, - - - - -	4,200,000 00
Internal duties, - - - - -	4,900,000 00
Public lands, - - - - -	1,500,000 00
Postage and incidental receipts, - - - - -	300,000 00
	<u>\$46,900,000 00</u>

Receipts from loans and Treasury notes.

Loans under the act of 15th November, 1814, - - - - -	\$243,911 39
Loans under the act of 3d March, 1815, - - - - -	318,675 52
Do. temporary loans, - - - - -	150,000 00
	<u>\$712,586 91</u>
Amount annually borrowed to 30th September, 1815, - - - - -	\$712,586 91
Treasury notes: amount issued prior to the 1st October, 1816, under the act of 24th February, 1815. - - - - -	
Notes bearing interest per statement L. - - - - -	4,274,800 00
Small Treasury notes not bearing interest, amount issued and reissued - - - - -	5,773,168 00
	<u>10,047,968 00</u>
	10,760,554 91
Making the total amount estimated to be actually received in the Treasury during the year 1816, - - - - -	57,660,554 91
Cash in the Treasury at the commencement of the year (including an item of \$6,361,195 43 in Treasury notes,) which had been paid for duties and taxes, - - - - -	13,106,592 88

Making the amount estimated to be actually received into the Treasury during the year, including the sum in the Treasury on the first day of January last, - - - - - 70,667,147 79

The application of the moneys actually received into the Treasury during the year 1816, will be as follows: To the 30th September the payments have amounted to the following sums nearly, (the accounts being not yet made up, the precise number cannot be given.)

For civil, diplomatic, and miscellaneous expenses, - - - - -	2,359,404 99
Military service, (including an arrearage of \$11,212,560 00) - - - - -	14,079,009 27
Naval service, - - - - -	2,707,009,27 00
Public debt, viz:	
Interest and reimbursement, - - - - -	\$8,009,936 34
Reimbursement and interest of Treasury notes, - - - - -	5,606,650 24
	<u>13,616,586 58</u>

32,762,416 84

During the fourth quarter of the year the payments are estimated to amount to the following sums,

viz:	
For civil, diplomatic, and miscellaneous expenses, - - - - -	750,000 00
Military service, - - - - -	2,450,000 00
Naval service, - - - - -	1,200,000 00
Public debt, viz: interest and reimbursement to the 1st of January, 1816, inclusive, - - - - -	\$ 2,100,000 00
Reimbursement of Treasury notes, - - - - -	13,000,000 00
	<u>15,100,000 00</u>

19,500,000 00

\$52,262,416 84

The receipts into the Treasury during the year have been estimated at	57,660,554 91
And the balance at the commencement, - - - - -	13,106,592 33
	<u>70,767,147 79</u>

Leaving in the Treasury on the 1st January, 1817, the sum of - - - - - \$18,504,730 95

Of which sum it is estimated that \$10,000,000 will be in cash, and the remainder in Treasury notes, principally issued under the act of the 24th of February, 1815, which cannot be reimbursed without an appropriation for that purpose.

Notwithstanding the favorable situation of the Treasury, the disordered state of the currency still continues to embarrass the fiscal operations of the Government. The expectation which had been formed, that the demands upon the Treasury, in the Eastern section of the Union, might be paid in the local currency by the end of the year, has not been realized. To discharge the claims in that quarter, arising from the interest and reimbursement of the public debt, which will be payable on the 1st of January next, small Treasury notes must be issued, or a temporary loan must be obtained from the Bank of the United States, to the amount of those demands. The latter alternative has been embraced, and a proposition for that purpose has been made to the bank, and has been favorably received by it.

When those claims are satisfied there will be no further embarrassment until the next quarterly payment of interest. To prevent the necessity of resorting again to loans for that object, the reissue of Treasury notes of all descriptions should be discontinued. When this course is adopted, and persevered in, the revenue in that quarter will be collected in current money, and will be more than sufficient to satisfy all the claims of the public creditors. The more certainly to effect that object, it is respectfully recommended that an appropriation be made,

during the present session of Congress, for the reimbursement of the whole of the Treasury notes, issued under the act of the 24th of February, 1815. The Treasury notes issued under the preceding laws have either been reimbursed or provision made for that object during the last quarter of the year. The acts under which they issued having, by appropriations, provided for their reimbursement, no further appropriations are necessary for that purpose.

OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The funded debt contracted before the late war, which was unredeemed on the 1st of January, 1816, amounted, as per statement B, to	\$38,340,906 77
By the same statement, it appears that the funded debt contracted on account of the late war, amounted, on that day, to	65,944,434 29
Making the whole funded debt, on the 1st of January, 1816, amount to	\$104,258,341 06
To which must be added temporary loans, viz:	
Due the State bank, Boston,	\$500,000 00
Cumberland bank, Maine,	50,000 00
Banks in the District of Columbia,	175,000 00
State of New York,	350,000 00
	<u>1,075,000 00</u>
Making an aggregate amount, on that day, of	\$105,350,341 06
To this amount there has been added, between the 1st day of January, 1816, and the 30th of September, the following sums, viz:	
6 per cent. stock of 1814,	\$229,801 31
6 per cent. stock of 1815,	335,448 90
6 per cent. Treasury note stock,	58,245 78
7 per cent. Treasury note stock,	4,570,621 00
	<u>\$5,257,116 99</u>
From which deduct temporary loans paid off,	-\$1,025,000 00
Reimbursement of old six per cent. stock and deferred stock,	846,639 76
	<u>1,871,639 76</u>
	<u>3,385,477 23</u>
Making the whole public debt, on the 30th of Sept. 1816, as appears by statement C, amount to	\$108,745,818 29
Viz:—Old funded debt,	\$37,494,267 01
New funded debt,	71,201,551 28
Temporary loan,	50,000 00
	<u>\$108,745,818 29</u>
Add the amount of seven per cent. stock, which it is estimated will be created during the last quarter of the year, by funding small Treasury notes,	520,405 00
Makes the estimated amount of the public debt, on the 1st of January, 1817,	\$109,266,223 29
The subscription to the Bank of the United States, on the part of the Government, will create five per cent. stock to the amount of	7,000,000 00
And the compromise with the Yazoo claimants has created stock to the amount of	4,098,615 29

But as the first is only an exchange for the same amount of bank capital, which will, probably, produce an excess of dividends beyond the interest payable on the stock, equal to the reimbursement of the principal, before the expiration of the charter, and the second bears no interest, and will, probably, be reimbursed by the sales of the public lands in the Mississippi Territory, during the three succeeding years, no further provision for their ultimate redemption appears to be necessary.

SINKING FUND.

According to the existing laws, the sinking fund consists of a permanent appropriation of \$8,000,000 per annum, which is vested in the commissioners of the sinking fund, to be by them applied to the payment of the interest of the public debt, and to the redemption of the principal. Of this sum there will be required, during the year 1817, for the payment of interest, \$6,084,415 93; leaving the sum of \$1,915,584 07 to be applied to the redemption of the principal of the debt. This sum, operating upon the principle of compound interest, will not redeem the whole amount of the funded debt before the year 1742. An attentive examination of the rise and progress of public debts in other countries cannot fail to impress the American republic with the necessity of making suitable exertions, in periods of peace, to release the national revenue from so heavy an encumbrance. Although, from our happy form of Government, and from our fortunate geographical position, we may reasonably calculate upon being less frequently subjected to the calamities of war than has hitherto fallen to the lot of other civilized nations, yet reason and experience forbid the expectation that we shall be exempted from its evils until the redemption of the public debt shall be effected by the operation of the existing sinking fund.

By referring to the laws authorizing the several loans, which, during the late war, have swelled the public debt to its present amount, Congress has uniformly pledged the faith of the nation to provide sufficient funds for the payment of the interest, and the redemption of the principal of the debt so created. The time has now arrived when that pledge ought to be redeemed. It is, therefore, respectfully proposed, that there be annually appropriated the sum of \$2,000,000, in addition to the sum of \$8,000,000, now applicable to the payment of the interest, and the redemption of the principal of the public debt; and that that sum be vested in the commissioners of the sinking fund, to be applied in the same manner as the existing sinking fund. It is also proposed that when the six per cent. stock can be purchased at par, or the seven per cent. stock can be purchased at six per cent. premium, or when a greater amount can be redeemed, according to the conditions attached to the different loans, of which the funded debt is composed, than the amount of the sinking fund applicable to the redemption of the principal of the funded debt within any one year, there be paid to the commissioners of the sinking fund the further sum of \$1,000,000 out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, if such payment can be made; leaving a balance in the Treasury, at the end of the year, of \$2,000,000; which additional sum shall be applied to the redemption or purchase of the principal of the debt.

As the funded stock which may be subscribed by individuals to the Bank of the United States is redeemable at the will of the Government, and as the Louisiana stock is to be reimbursed in four annual instalments, commencing in the year 1818, the effect of the provision will be an annual addition of \$1,000,000 for the succeeding six years, if the state of the Treasury will admit of its execution.

By the operation of the sinking fund, thus enlarged, the whole funded debt will be extinguished within the term of fourteen years. In the present unsettled state of the revenue, arising from the excessive importations of foreign merchandise during the previous and present year; from the change in the rate of duties imposed upon merchandise; and from changes made in the various branches of internal revenue, it would be unsafe to vest the whole of the surplus revenue of the present year in the commissioners of the sinking fund, as there is strong reason to believe that the revenue which will accrue during the year 1817 will fall considerably below the permanent annual expenditure, inclusive of the addition proposed to be made to the sinking fund. That deficiency, as well as any other which may occur in the two succeeding years, will be covered by the balances which it is estimated will be in the Treasury on the 1st day of January, 1817 and 1818.

Of the estimates of the public revenue and expenditures for the year 1816.

The probable authorized demands upon the Treasury, during the year 1817, are estimated to amount to			\$21,751,797 57
Viz: Civil, diplomatic, and miscellaneous expenses,		\$1,765,513 03	
Military service, (including an arrearage of \$1,540,000,)		7,999,625 79	
Naval service, (including \$1,000,000 for the permanent increase of the navy,)		3,986,658 75	
Public debt,		8,000,000 00	
		<u>21,751,797 57</u>	
Deduct war arrearage,			1,540,000 00
			<u>20,211,797 57</u>
Add for annual incidental expenses, not embraced in the estimate,			288,203 43
Making the permanent annual expenditure,			<u>20,500,000 00</u>
To which add the sum proposed to the sinking fund,			3,000,000 00
Making, in the whole, an aggregate amount for the permanent annual expenditure, until the public debt is redeemed, of			<u>\$23,500,000 00</u>

The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury, for the year 1815, estimated the revenue which would accrue during the year 1816, under the modifications proposed by that report to the existing laws for raising revenue, at			\$25,600,000 00
Viz: Customs,		\$17,000,000 00	
Internal duties,		4,500,000 00	
Direct tax, (nett proceeds,)		2,700,000 00	
Public lands,		1,000,000 00	
Postage and incidental receipts,		400,000 00	
		<u>25,600,000 00</u>	

But the revenue which has actually accrued during the year is estimated, as already stated, at			38,650,000 00
Making an aggregate excess, beyond the estimate of the last year, of			<u>\$13,050,000 00</u>

Which excess has arisen, principally, in the customs.

By the same report, the money receivable into the Treasury during the year 1816, arising, principally, from revenue which accrued during the year 1815, was estimated at			\$33,400,000 00
Viz: Customs,		\$21,000,000 00	
Internal duties,		5,000,000 00	
Direct tax,		6,000,000 00	
Public lands,		1,000,000 00	
Postage, and incidental receipts,		400,000 00	
		<u>33,400,000 00</u>	

But the actual receipts into the Treasury during the year, from those sources of revenue, are estimated at			49,600,000 00
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Leaving an excess of receipts beyond the estimate, of			<u>\$13,500,000 00</u>
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The actual excess in the customs, beyond the estimate of 1815, being			\$15,000,000 00
In the internal duties, direct tax, and postage, there is a deficit of			2,000,000 00

			<u>13,000,000 00</u>
And an excess in public lands of			500,000 00

Making, as before stated, the whole excess,			<u>\$13,500,000 00</u>
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The comparative statements just presented prove the extreme difficulty there was, in 1815, of making any estimate upon which reliance could be placed. The excessive importations of foreign merchandise, during the past and present year, have, but in a slight degree, diminished that difficulty. The revenue which accrued from imports and tonnage during the three first quarters of the year 1816 have averaged \$9,000,000 a quarter; while that which will have accrued during the last quarter is estimated at not more than one-third of that sum. As the redundancy of foreign merchandise in the country, which has produced this extraordinary reduction of duties in the fourth quarter of the year, will continue to influence the importations of the year 1817, the revenue accruing from that source, during the year, probably cannot be safely estimated above \$12,000,000.

We must look, therefore, to the revenue accruing in the year 1818 as the average revenue arising from duties and taxes of a permanent character, by which the permanent expenditures of the Government should be regulated. From the facts in the possession of the Department, the revenue which will accrue during that year is estimated as follows, viz:

Customs,	-	-	-	-	\$18,000,000 00	
Internal duties,	-	-	-	-	2,500,000 00	
Public lands,	-	-	-	-	1,500,000 00	
Postage and incidental receipts,	-	-	-	-	250,000 00	
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Making an aggregate amount of						\$22,250,000 00
In the year 1819 the first instalment of the bonus, payable by the Bank of the United States, becomes due,						500,000 00
During the same year it is believed that the claim of the State of Georgia will be paid, and the Mississippi stock will be absorbed by the sale of public lands in the Mississippi Territory, which will give an additional revenue from the public lands for the year 1820, and for subsequent years, of						1,500,000 00
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Making the revenue for the year 1820 amount to						<u>\$24,250,000 00</u>
Which may be estimated as the permanent annual revenue after that period.						
But the receipts into the Treasury, during the year 1817, are estimated as follows, viz:						
Customs,	-	-	-	-	\$24,000,000 00	
Internal duties,	-	-	-	-	2,900,000 00	
Direct tax, (outstanding and receivable that year,)	-	-	-	-	2,000,000 00	
Public lands,	-	-	-	-	1,500,000 00	
Postage and incidental receipts,	-	-	-	-	250,000 00	
<hr/>						30,650,000 00
To which add the balance in the Treasury on the 1st day of that year,						10,000,000 00
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Total ways and means for 1817,						40,650,000 00
The expenditure for that year, as before stated, including the proposed addition to the sinking fund, is estimated to amount to						25,000,000 00
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Leaving a balance in the Treasury on the 1st day of January, 1818, of						<u>\$15,650,000 00</u>

Ways and Means for 1818.

Balance in the Treasury as before stated,	-	-	-	-	\$15,650,000 00	
Customs,	-	-	-	-	12,000,000 00	
Internal duties,	-	-	-	-	2,500,000 00	
Public lands,	-	-	-	-	1,500,000 00	
Postage, and incidental receipts,	-	-	-	-	250,000 00	
<hr/>						\$31,900,000 00
The permanent expenditure, including the proposed addition to the sinking fund, has been estimated at						23,500,000 00
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Balance in the Treasury on the 1st of January, 1819, estimated at						<u>\$8,400,000 00</u>

Ways and Means for 1819.

Balance in the Treasury as above stated,	-	-	-	-	\$8,400,000 00	
Customs,	-	-	-	-	18,000,000 00	
Internal duties,	-	-	-	-	2,500,000 00	
Public lands,	-	-	-	-	1,500,000 00	
Bonus from the United States Bank, payable this year,	-	-	-	-	500,000 00	
Postage, and incidental receipts,	-	-	-	-	250,000 00	
<hr/>						\$31,150,000 00
Permanent expenditure as before stated,	-	-	-	-		23,500,000 00
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Leaving in the Treasury, on the 1st day of January, 1820, a balance of						7,650,000 00
After which period, the permanent revenue, as before stated, is estimated to exceed the permanent expenditure, taken as the basis of this report, by the annual amount of						750,000 00
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Making an excess of revenue beyond the estimated expenditure during the next four years, of						<u>\$8,400,000 00</u>

Applicable to such objects of internal improvement or national defence as the wisdom of Congress may direct.

All which is respectfully submitted.

WM. H. CRAWFORD, *Sec'y of the Treasury.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, December 16, 1816.

A.

Statement exhibiting the amount of duties which accrued on merchandise, tonnage, passports, and clearances of debentures issued on the exportation of foreign merchandise, and of expenses of collection, during the year 1815.

Merchandise.	Tonnage, &c.	Passports.	Debentures issued.	Gross revenue.	Expenses on collection.	Nett revenue.
\$38,068,890 30	\$618,341 00	\$15,932 00	\$1,650,671 91	\$37,052,492 26	\$408,893 49	\$36,643,598 77

B.

Statement of the funded debt of the United States, and of temporary loans, on the 1st of January, 1816.

Funded debt, exclusive of sums passed to the credit of the sinking fund—

Six per cent. stock, - - - -	\$17,250,871 41		
Three per cent. stock, - - - -	16,158,180 79		
Deferred stock, - - - -	9,358,320 34		
Louisiana stock, - - - -	10,923,500 00		
Six per cent. stock of 1796, - - - -	80,000 00		
Exchanged six per cent. stock of 1812, - - - -	2,984,746 72		\$56,755,619 26
Six per cent. stock of 1812, 11 million loan, - - - -	\$7,810,500 00		
Six per cent. stock of 1813, 16 million loan, - - - -	18,109,377 43		
Six per cent. stock of 1813, 7½ million loan, - - - -	8,498,581 95		
Six per cent. stock of 1814, 25 million loan, - - - -	15,661,818 54		
Six per cent. stock of 1815, 18,452,800 loan, - - - -	11,952,700 74		
Six per cent. stock of Treasury notes, bearing interest, funded at par, - - - -	2,481 63		
Seven per ct. stock of small Treasury notes funded, - - - -	3,908,974 00		\$65,954,434 29
Temporary loans—			\$122,700,053 55
Due to the State Bank, Boston, - - - -		\$500,000 00	
Due to the Cumberland Bank, Maine, - - - -		50,000 00	
Due to the banks in the District of Columbia, - - - -		175,000 00	
Due to the State of New York, - - - -		350,000 00	
			\$1,075,000 00(a)
			\$123,775,053 55
Nominal amount of the funded debt and temporary loans, 1st January, 1816, - - - -			\$123,775,053 55
Deduct reimbursement of the old six per cent. and deferred stocks to the 31st December, 1815, per Treasury settlements, - - - -	\$24,341,990 68(b)		
From this sum deduct reimbursement paid, or stock subsequently transferred to the sinking fund, - - - -	\$28,748 02		
And the difference between the nominal amount of six per cent. and deferred stock exchanged, and the amount of exchanged stock issued in lieu thereof, - - - -	5,898,530 17		
		\$5,927,278 19	\$18,414,712 49
Unredeemed amount 1st January, 1816, - - - -			\$105,360,341 06(c)
Nominal amount, as above stated, brought down, - - - -			\$123,775,053 55

SINKING FUND.

The following sums are in the Treasury books, passed to the credit of this fund:

<i>Foreign debt.</i>			
5 per cent. stock, - - - -		\$8,200,000 00	
4½ per cent. stock, - - - -		820,000 00	
4 per cent. stock, - - - -		3,180,000 00	
			\$12,000,000 00
<i>Domestic debt.</i>			
6 per cent. stock, - - - -		\$1,946,026 92	
3 per cent. stock, - - - -		698,555 41	
Deferred stock, - - - -		1,005,179 83	
8 per cent. stock, - - - -		6,482,500 00	
Exchanged 6 per cent. stock, - - - -		6,294,051 12	
Converted 6 per cent. stock, - - - -		1,859,850 70	
4½ per cent. stock, - - - -		176,000 00	
5½ per cent. stock, - - - -		1,848,900 00	
Navy 6 per cent. stock, - - - -		711,700 00	
Louisiana stock, - - - -		326,500 00	
6 per cent. stock of 1812, - - - -		324,200 00	
			\$21,673,463 98
			\$33,873,463 98
			(d) \$147,643,517 53

Notes.

(a) Amount of temporary loans unpaid 1st January, 1815, - - - -			\$600,000 00
Received into the Treasury in 1815.			
From the City Bank, New York, - - - -		\$200,000 00	
Mechanics' Bank, New York, - - - -		200,000 00	
Manhattan Bank, do - - - -		200,000 00	
Mechanics' Bank, do - - - -		75,000 00	
Bank of America, do - - - -		75,000 00	
Manhattan Bank, do - - - -		75,000 00	
City Bank, do - - - -		75,000 00	
Mechanics' Bank, do - - - -		200,000 00	
State of New York, - - - -		350,000 00	
Banks in the District of Columbia, - - - -		175,000 00	
Bank of Virginia, - - - -		450,000 00	
Farmers' Bank of Virginia, - - - -		200,000 00	
			\$2,275,000 00
			\$2,875,000 00
Paid off in 1815, per public printed accounts, - - - -			1,800,000 00
Amount as above stated, - - - -			\$1,075,000 00

(b) This is the aggregate of the several annual settlements predicated on the quarter-yearly dividends payable from 1st January, 1796, inclusive, and, after making the deductions herein stated, will, on the full payment of the old 6 per cent. and deferred stocks, accord with their present nominal amount.

(c) Unredeemed amount 1st January, 1815,	-	-	\$89,110,337 20
Additions in 1815—3 per cent. stock,	-	-	3 36
6 per cent. stock, 1812,	-	-	50,000 00
6 per cent. stock, 1814,	-	-	1,426,967 29
6 per cent. stock, 1815,	-	-	11,952,700 74
6 per cent. Treasury notes funded,	-	-	2,481 63
7 per cent. small do do	-	-	3,908,974 00

\$17,341,127 02

Temporary loans, - - - - - 2,275,000 00

\$19,616,127 02

Deduct reimbursements of old 6 per cent. and deferred
stocks in 1815, - - - - - \$1,566,123 16
And temporary loans paid off, - - - - - 1,800,000 00

\$3,366,123 16

\$16,250,003 86

As above, - - - - - \$105,360,341 06

(d) Nominal amount, including sinking fund, 1st January, 1815, - - - - - \$139,832,390 51

Additions in 1815, including temporary loans, - - - - - 17,816,127 02

As above, \$157,648,517 53

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, REGISTER'S OFFICE, December 19, 1816.

JOSEPH NOURSE, Register.

C.

Estimate of the funded debt of the United States, and of the temporary loans, on the 1st of October, 1816.

FUNDED DEBT.

Exclusive of sums passed to the credit of the sinking fund:

6 per cent. stock,	-	-	-	\$17,250,871 41
3 per cent. stock,	-	-	-	16,158,180 79
Deferred stock,	-	-	-	9,358,320 34
Louisiana stock,	-	-	-	10,923,500 00
6 per cent. stock, of 1796,	-	-	-	80,000 00
Exchanged 6 per cent. of 1812,	-	-	-	2,984,746 72
Six per cent. stock of 1812, 11 million loan,	-	-	-	7,810,500 00
Ditto, of 1813, 16 do	-	-	-	18,109,387 43
Ditto, of 1813, 7½ do	-	-	-	8,498,581 95
Ditto, of 1814, 25½ do	-	-	-	15,954,619 85
Ditto, of 1815, \$18,452,800 loan,	-	-	-	12,288,149 64
Six per cent. stock, Treasury notes per 25th February, 1815, funded,	-	-	-	60,727 41
Seven per cent. stock, small Treasury notes, funded,	-	-	-	8,479,595 00

\$71,201,551 28

\$127,957,170 54

Temporary loans.

Due Cumberland Bank, Maine, - - - - - 50,000 00

Nominal amount of funded debt and temporary loans, 1st October, 1816, - - - - - \$128,007,170 54

Deduct reimbursement of the old six per cent. and deferred stocks to the 31st

December, 1815, per Treasury settlements, - - - - - \$24,341,990 68

To the 1st October, 1816, estimated at - - - - - 846,639 76

\$25,188,630 44

Deduct, as per last annual statement, - - - - - 5,927,278 19

\$19,261,352 25

Unredeemed amount, 1st October, 1816, - - - - - (a) \$108,745,818 29

Nominal amount, as above stated, brought down, - - - - - \$128,007,170 54

SINKING FUND.

The following sums are, in the Treasury books, passed to the credit of this fund:

Foreign debt.

Five per cent. stock,	-	-	\$8,200,000 00
Four and a half per cent. stock,	-	-	820,000 00
Four per cent. stock,	-	-	3,180,000 00
			\$12,200,000 00

Domestic debt.

Six per cent. stock,	-	-	\$1,946,026 92
Three per cent. stock,	-	-	698,555 41
Deferred stock,	-	-	1,005,179 83
Eight per cent. stock,	-	-	6,182,500 00
Exchanged six per cent. stock,	-	-	6,294,051 12
Converted six per cent. stock,	-	-	1,859,850 70
Four and a half per cent. stock,	-	-	176,000 00
Five and a half per cent. stock,	-	-	1,848,900 00
Navy six per cent. stock,	-	-	711,700 00
Louisiana six per cent. stock,	-	-	326,500 00
Six per cent. stock of 1812,	-	-	324,200 00
			\$21,673,463 98

\$33,873,463 98

(b) \$161,880,634 52

	<i>Notes.</i>				
(a) Unredeemed amount, 1st January 1816,	-	-	-	-	\$105,360,341 06
Additions to 1st October, 1816:					
Six per cent. stock of 1814,	-	-	-	\$292,801 31	
Six per cent. stock of 1815,	-	-	-	335,448 90	
Treasury notes six per cent. stock,	-	-	-	58,245 78	
Treasury notes seven per cent. stock,	-	-	-	4,570,621 00	
				5,257,116 99	
					\$110,617,458 05
Deduct temporary loans paid off,	-	-	-	\$1,025,000 00	
Deduct reimbursement of the old six per cent. and deferred stock,	-	-	-	846,639 76	
				1,871,639 76	
Unredeemed amount, as above,	-	-	-	-	\$108,745,818 29
(b) Nominal amount, including sinking fund, 1st January, 1816,	-	-	-	-	\$157,648,517 53
Additions in 1816,	-	-	-	-	5,257,116 99
					\$162,905,634 52
Deduct temporary loans paid to the State Bank, Boston,	-	-	-	\$500,000 00	
Banks in the District of Columbia,	-	-	-	175,000 00	
The State of New York,	-	-	-	350,000 00	
				\$1,025,000 00	
Nominal amount, as above,	-	-	-	-	\$161,880,634 52

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, REGISTER'S OFFICE, December 19, 1816.

JOSEPH NOURSE, Register.

14th CONGRESS.]

No. 491.

[2d SESSION.

REMISSION OF DUTY.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 2, 1817.

Mr. LOWNDES, from the Committee of Ways and Means, to whom has been referred the petition of C. H. Saunders and M. Judah, reported:

That it is the object of the petition to procure a remission or repayment of duties which the petitioners have either secured or paid to the Government on account of spirits distilled within the United States. The ground of their claim is the destruction of these articles by fire.

The principle involved in this claim will probably materially affect the decision of many petitions which have been referred to the committee, and they have supposed that this consideration required that they should examine the subject with the utmost attention, and would excuse them for explaining their views of it more fully in their report than they have usually done in cases of private petitions.

The duties in question, like all indirect taxes, are considered by the petitioners as intended to fall upon consumption. Though paid upon the importation or manufacture of the article, they are designed only to operate as deductions from the income of the last purchaser—the consumer. But where the article is destroyed, to make him pay the whole who it was not calculated either by the Government or himself should pay any part, seems the more unreasonable, as the loss makes an opening in the market for the same article; so that the Government, without injury to the merchant, may receive its fair contribution, proportioned to the consumption and resources of the country, and equal to what it would have been if the first article had not been destroyed.

Such are the arguments which may be employed in favor of the relief which is asked. The committee feel that in many cases such relief cannot be denied without much pain, but they think that it cannot be granted without imprudence.

It is not denied that there would be some advantage in so laying the duty upon consumable articles that Government should receive its contribution, where he who buys for consumption makes his purchase. The duty would in this way add less to the price of the article; and nothing to the risk of mercantile operations. But it could be enforced only by a system of excise so rigorous and extensive that our attachment to civil liberty would make us reject it, independently of the difficulties which the sparse population of the country would oppose to its execution. Duties then upon consumable articles must be imposed upon their importation or manufacture, and the holder of them, upon paying the duty, finds their value as really enhanced as it would be by any equal expenditure for their security or transportation. Is it unjust that his whole property in the article, when enhanced in value, should be liable to the same dangers that it was before? That the money paid for its purchase, or for the duty upon it, should be sacrificed either by the want of vigilance which might have prevented its loss, or of prudence which might have secured the indemnity which the practice of insurance affords. The owner of the article has its custody, its disposition, the power of insuring it. The committee do not think that there is in the rule which throws the loss of the money paid for duties as well as the purchase money upon the holder, an injustice which obliges the Legislature to abandon it at the hazard of encouraging such extensive frauds upon the revenue as a rigorous system of excise could alone repress.

If, indeed, the destruction of any article of merchandise in possession of the importer or manufacturer, on which duty has been paid, gives to him a claim to its repayment, every purchaser of similar merchandise for consumption or speculation, having paid the same duty in the shape of an enhanced price of the article, has the same substantial claim upon the justice of the Government.