

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, M A R C H 4, 1802.

WASHINGTON CITY.

Message from the President, February 7, 1802.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives;

I NOW lay before you—1. A return of ordnance, arms and military stores, the property of the United States.

2. Returns of muskets and bayonets fabricated at the armouries of the United States, at Springfield and Harper's ferry, and of the expenditures at those places; and

3. An estimate of the expenditures which may be necessary for fortifications and barracks, for the present year.

Besides the permanent magazines established at Springfield, West-Point and Harper's ferry, it is thought one should be established in some point convenient for the states of North-Carolina, South-Carolina and Georgia; such a point will probably be found near the borders of the Carolinas, and some small provision by the legislature, preparatory to the establishment, will be necessary for the present year.

We find the United States in possession of certain iron mines and works, in the county of Berkeley, and state of Virginia, purchased, as is presumable, on the idea of establishing works for the fabrication of cannon and other military articles by the public. Whether this method of supplying what may be wanted will be most advisable; or that of purchasing at market, where competition brings every thing to its proper level of price and quality, is for the legislature to decide; and if the latter alternative be preferred, it will rest for their future consideration in what way the subjects of this purchase may be best employed or disposed of. The attorney-general's opinion on the subject of the title accompanies this.

There are, in various parts of the United States, small parcels of land which have been purchased, at different times for cantonments and other military purposes.—Several of them are in situations not likely to be accommodated to future purposes. The loss of the records prevents a detailed statement of these, until they can be supplied by inquiry; in the meantime, one of them, containing 88 acres, in the county of Essex, in New-Jersey, purchased in 1799, and sold the following year to Cornelius Vermule and Andrew Codmas, though its price has been received, cannot be conveyed without authority from the legislature.

I enclose herewith a letter from the secretary of war on the subject of the islands in the lakes and rivers of our northern boundary, and of certain lands in the neighbourhood of some of our military posts, on which it may be expedient for the legislature to make some provisions.

T. JEFFERSON.

February 2, 1802.

Here follows, 1. A detached statement of ordnance, arms, &c. the property of the United States.

2. Return of muskets and bayonets fabricated at Springfield, from 1795, to Nov. 28, 1801, viz. 16,120 muskets, and 12,000,963 bayonets.

3. Expenditures of armoury at Springfield, from July 10, 1793, to September 30, 1801, viz. 230,251 dollars.

4. Ditto at Harper's ferry from October 1, 1798, to June 30, 1801, viz. 75,214 dollars.

5. Muskets and bayonets fabricated at Harper's ferry from January 1, to Sept. 30, 1801, viz. 280 muskets, and 269 bayonets.

Estimate of expenditures necessary for erecting and completing fortifications and barracks for the year 1802.

	Dolls:
For repairs of platforms and remounting cannon in Fort Constitution, in Portsmouth harbour, New-Hampshire.	1,000
For completing Fort Independence, and barracks, &c. on Castle-Island, in the harbour of Boston.	38,000
For completing two fortifications, of six already commenced, in and about the harbour of Newport, Rhode-Island.	1,500
For completing Fort-Mifflin, near Philadelphia.	1,000
For erecting a battery and barracks near Norfolk, in Virginia.	12,000
For completing a battery near Wilmington, North-Carolina.	4,000
For completing the works in Georgia.	6,000
For a new enclosed work at Niagara.	3,000

For sundry repairs at Detroit, Michigan; Mackinac, Chickasaw, Chickasaw Bluffs, and Fort Mifflin; 4,000
Dolls: 70,500

Letter from the attorney-general: Washington, 25th January, 1802:

SIR,

It appears that Potts, Wilson and North, under the firm of George North and Co. having previously purchased of general Lee, on the 7th day of May, 1800, agreed with the United States to convey to them, in consideration of 42,000 dollars, two hundred and thirty acres of land, or about that quantity (describing it) with a furnace, mill, corn mill, houses, improvement, with privileges, &c. and also the right of digging ore, which right they held under general Lee, from Friend's ore bank, the United States being subject to pay the rent of 1000 dollars annually to said Lee, as a rent reserved to him.—The consideration money was to be paid by the United States on their receiving a good title to the premises.

Lee, on the same day by a similar agreement, engaged with the United States to convey to them, by good and sufficient deeds, all his iron ore in a tract of land of about 1600 acres; and on which is a bank of iron ore called Friend's ore bank; with certain privileges of ways of carrying off the ore, &c. He also agreed to release or convey to the United States his right to the above-mentioned annual rent of 1000 dollars, which, by their agreement with North and Co. they were liable to pay to Lee. For and in consideration of this conveyance, the United States were to pay 24,000 dollars.

On the next day, May the 8th, Lee made and executed to the United States in pursuance of the agreement above stated, his deed of premises, with a general warrant, to defend to the United States against all persons.

In the same year, North and Co. conveyed by a deed, regularly executed, in pursuance of their agreement, two hundred and twenty-one acres of land, more or less, with their right of digging ore, from Friend's ore bank. Both these deeds, or instruments, appear to be properly made and authenticated, and sufficient to vest the premises in the United States, if the several grantors were respectively possessed and seized of the premises, free from incumbrances, at the time when the deeds were executed.

It appears by the foregoing statement, that the United States have paid for the purchase from North and Co. dolls. 42,000, in addition to an annual rent of dolls. 1000, which they were to have paid to Lee; and that for the release from paying this annual rent, and the privilege of digging ore in a described 1600 acres of land, and the accommodation of one half acre of land to build on for workmen, they have paid 24,000 dollars to gen. Lee.

Upon searching the records of the general court's office of Richmond, it appears by a certificate from the clerk, that 3000 acres of land including Friend's ore bank, was mortgaged June 1794, to secure the payment of 8000 dollars, by several instalments, the last of which ought to have been paid on the first day of May, 1798. This mortgage deed is not amongst the papers. It is said this money has not been paid; if so, and there is no reservation in the deed of this ore bank, the United States title is incumbered to the amount of the whole mortgage money which is now due.

It is said that the title is further incumbered by a mortgage on one Willson of Alexandria, on which, some considerable part of the money has been paid.—Nothing, however, of this appears from the papers you put into my hands: I have no information respecting this purchase, excepting what has appeared on the face of the documents.

I am, Sir,

With esteem;

Your humble servant,

(Signed)

LEVI LINCOLN.

HENRY DEARBORN, Esq; Sec'y at War.

War Department, December 3, 1801.

SIR,

I take the liberty of suggesting for your consideration the propriety of proposing to congress, that provision be made for designating the boundary line between the United States and the adjacent British possessions in such manner as may prevent any disputes in future from the outlet of the Ontario to Lake Superior if not further. There are many valuable lands in the lakes and rivers, some of which are already inhabited, which are claimed on each side; it is to be presumed that the sooner the line is ascertained, the more easily all disputes will be settled. From Mr. Tracy's report, and from information obtained from other sources, it appears that many dis-

putes now exist respecting titles to lands at and about Detroit; as well between the United States and individuals, as between many of the citizens; and also between citizens of the United States and subjects of Great-Britain. Will it not be necessary for congress to authorise the appointment of some board or tribunal for hearing and deciding these disputes?

H. DEARBORN,

To the President of the United States.

FORTIFICATIONS OF HARBOURS.

The committee appointed to inquire and report whether any, and if any, what amendments are necessary in the laws respecting the fortifications of the harbours of the United States,

beg leave to report—

That of the several sums hitherto appropriated by law, for the purpose aforesaid, there remains unexpended the sum of one hundred and fifty-three thousand dollars; and by the annexed estimate, furnished by the secretary at war, it appears that the sum of sixty-three thousand five hundred will be sufficient for the expenditure of the current year.

The committee are therefore of opinion, that no amendments in the laws aforesaid are necessary.

ESTIMATE

Of expenditures necessary for erecting and completing fortifications of ports and harbours, in the year 1802.

	Dolls.
For repairing of platforms, and remounting cannon in fort Constitution, Portsmouth harbour, N. Hampshire.	1,000
For completing Fort Independence, barracks, &c. on Castle-Island, Boston harbour, Massachusetts.	38,000
For completing two fortifications of six already commenced in Newport harbour, Rhode-Island.	15,000
For completing Fort-Mifflin near Philadelphia.	1,000
For erecting a battery and barrack near Norfolk, Virginia.	12,000
For completing a battery near Wilmington, North-Carolina.	4,000
For completing the works in Georgia.	6,000
	Dolls. 63,500

There remains unexpended of the appropriation for the fortification of ports, and harbours, 153,000;

In the estimate for the present year, the requisitions for the protection of the frontiers, and for the fortification of the ports and harbours, are included in the same item. It will therefore be necessary to bear in mind this circumstance when you make the appropriation for the year 1802, for this department.

War Department, January 13th, 1802.

Law of the Union.

An ACT for the protection of the commerce and seamen of the United States against the Tripolitan cruisers.

WHEREAS the regency of Tripoli on the coast of Barbary has commenced a predatory warfare against the United States:

BE IT ENACTED, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled, That it shall be lawful fully to equip, officer, man and employ such of the armed vessels of the United States as may be judged requisite by the president of the United States, for protecting effectually the commerce and seamen thereof on the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean and adjoining seas.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the president of the United States, to instruct the commanders of the respective public vessels aforesaid, to subdue, seize and make prize of all vessels, goods and effects, belonging to the bey of Tripoli, or to his subjects; and to bring or send the same into port, to be proceeded against, and be distributed according to law, and also to do and to cause to be done all such other acts of pretension or hostility, as the state of war will justify, and may, in his opinion require.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That on the application of the owners of private armed vessels of the United States, the president of the United States may grant to them special commissions, in the form which he shall direct, under the seal of the United States; and such private armed vessels, when so commissioned, shall have the like authority for capturing, seizing, taking and bringing into port, any Tripolitan vessel, goods or effects, as the before mentioned public armed vessels may by law have; and shall therein