H. R. 119.

FEBRUARY 10, 1817.

Read twice and committed to the committee of the whole House, on the bill from the Senate "to provide for the prompt settlement of the public accounts."

A Bill

To regulate and fix the compensation of Clerks and Messengers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of*
2 *the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That
3 the Secretaries of the State, Treasury, War, and Navy De-
4 partments, and the Post-Master General respectively, shall be,
5 and they are hereby authorized to apportion the compensation
6 for clerks in their respective Departments in such manner as
7 the service to be performed shall in their judgment require,
8 subject to the following regulations, that is to say: The com-
9 pensation of the principal clerks in the Department of State,
10 the offices of the Secretaries of the Treasury, of War, and of
11 the Navy, respectively, shall not exceed
12 dollars a-year; that of the first assistant clerk in said Depart-
13 ment and offices, shall not exceed dollars
14 a-year; and that of any other clerk therein shall not exceed

15 dollars a-year; and the compensation of
16 each principal clerk in the offices of the comptroller, auditor,
17 register of the Treasury, of the Treasurer, commissioner of the
18 revenue, and in the general land office; of the accountant, and
19 additional accountant, paymaster-general, superintendent-gene-
20 ral of military supplies, accountant of the Navy Department,
21 and in the general post-office, shall not exceed
22 dollars a-year; that of the first assistant clerk in said offices
23 respectively shall not exceed dollars a-year;
24 and those of any other clerk therein shall not exceed
25 dollars a-year.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the whole amount of
2 annual compensation for clerks in said Departments shall be
3 as follows, viz.

4 For the Department of State (including an allowance of
5 dollars for the chief clerk and
6 dollars for an assistant clerk in the patent-office)
7 dollars; for the office of the Secretary of the Treasury
8 dollars; for the office of the comptroller
9 dollars; for the office of the auditor
10 dollars; for the office of the register dollars;
11 for the office of the Treasurer dollars; for the
12 office of the commissioner of the revenue dol-
13 lars; and for the general land-office dollars;
14 for the office of the Secretary of War dollars;

15 for the office of the accountant of the War Department
16 dollars; for the office of the additional accountant
17 dollars; for the office of the paymaster-general
18 dollars; and for the office of the superinten-
19 dent-general of military supplies dollars; for
20 the office of the Secretary of the Navy dollars;
21 and for the office of the accountant of the Navy
22 dollars; and for the general post-office dollars.
23 *Provided*, It shall be lawful for the Secretary of War to assign
24 such portion of the allowance for clerk hire for the office of the
25 accountant of the War Department, as he may think proper
26 to the office of the additional accountant, during the continuance
27 of said office.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be allow-
2 ed to the Department of the Secretary of State and each of the
3 above-mentioned offices the sum of dollars,
4 as compensation for messengers therein.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the compensation
2 allowed by this act to clerks and messengers shall com-
3 mence on the first day of January, one thousand eight hun-
4 dred and seventeen; and it shall be the duty of the Secre-
5 taries of the several Departments and of the post-master-gene-
6 ral to cause an account to be kept of the number of days in
7 in each year which every clerk in said Departments shall have
8 been actually employed, and they shall report the same to Con-

9 gress at the commencement of each year, with the names of the
10 clerks they have employed during the preceding year, the
11 number of days each clerk was absent for his employment dur-
12 ring the time for which he received compensation, and the sums
13 given to each; also the amount of any surplus of appropriation
13 for clerk hire in either of the said Departments or offices, which
15 shall remain after the regular annual compensation of their clerks
16 shall have been paid.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts or parts of
2 acts hereby altered or supplied be, and the same are hereby
3 repealed.