

PAY DEPARTMENT

The earliest legislation creating a Pay Department, is the resolution of the Continental Congress, in session at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 16 June, 1775, as follows

Resolved, That there be one Paymaster General, and a deputy under him for the army in a separate department; that the pay for the Paymaster General himself be one hundred dollars per month, and for the Deputy Paymaster under him fifty dollars per month."

James Warren, of Massachusetts, was elected Paymaster General by Congress, on 27 June, 1775.

By resolution of 9 January, 1776, the Deputy Paymaster General was authorized to appoint two Assistant Paymasters, and it was required that all the troops of the Northern Department be paid in person by him or his assistants. On 4 April, 1776, General Washington addressed the President of Congress as follows: "Colonel Warren, Paymaster General, finding the army likely to be removed from hence, informed me the other day, that the situation of his affairs and engagements in the business of the colony are such, as to prevent him from personally attending the army; and offered, in case it should be required, to resign.

"This was rather embarrassing. To me it appears indispensably necessary that the Paymaster General, with his books, should be at or near headquarters. Indeed it is usual for the head of every department in the army, however dispersed that army may be, to be with the commanding general, keeping deputies in the smaller departments.

"On the other hand, Colonel Warren's merit and attachment to the cause are such, that I could do nothing less than desire, as some money must be left for the pay and contingent charges of the army which will remain here, that he would wait here till Congress shall be pleased to give their sentiments upon the matter."

Colonel Warren resigned soon after this, and his resignation was accepted by Congress on 19 April, 1776, and on 27th, William Palfrey, of Massachusetts, then Aid-de-Camp to General Washington, was appointed by Congress, Paymaster General of the army, and on 12 June, Ebenezer Hancock was appointed Deputy Paymaster General for the Eastern department.

Congress, on 9 July, 1776, resolved, "That Mr. Palfrey, late Aid-de-Camp of General Washington, have the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Continental Army," and on 16th, a regimental Paymaster for each regiment was provided, at a salary of \$26.66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per month, and by resolution of 10 October, regimental Paymasters were to have "the rank of First Lieutenants and rations as Captains."

Deputy Paymasters General were appointed by Congress for Virginia and Pennsylvania on 11 July, 1777, and for Georgia on 6 August. On 20th, the pay of the Paymaster General was increased to \$150, and that of the deputy under him to \$75 per month. By the resolution of 28 August, the Deputy Paymasters General of the Northern, Eastern and Southern departments were empowered to appoint assistants when necessary.

On 27 May, 1778, Congress resolved, "That the Paymaster of a regiment be chosen, by the officers of the regiment out of the Captains or subalterns, and appointed by warrant issued by the Commander-in-Chief, or the commander in a separate department." They were required to take charge of the clothing for the troops, and to distribute the same.

By resolution of 21 January, 1779, Congress directed that the Paymaster or Deputy Paymaster General should provide an office near headquarters, and on 29 May, the Paymaster General was required to keep his office in the place where Congress should, from time to time, hold its sessions. Authority was given for the employment of clerks,

directions for keeping regular books; and, in general terms, the duties of the office were defined. A Deputy Paymaster General was authorized, by the same resolution, for the army under the immediate command of General Washington.

On 12 November, 1779, Congress granted the sum of \$20,000 to Paymaster General William Palfrey, as a further compensation for past services, and allowed the Paymaster General salary at the rate of \$14,000 per annum until further order of Congress. Colonel Palfrey had filled the office of Paymaster General since April, 1776. "During this period he had exhibited such proofs of his talents for business, fidelity and devotedness to the cause of his country, that on 4 November, 1780, he was elected Consul General from the United States to France, an office at this time of much consideration, as it involved the duties of making extensive purchases of military and other supplies for the country, and an examination and settlement of all the accounts in which the United States were concerned with public and private agents in Europe, and which had been multiplying and accumulating since the commencement of the war.

"He sailed for France, but the vessel in which he took passage was lost at sea, and every one on board was supposed to have perished."*

Colonel Palfrey was succeeded as Paymaster General by John Pierce, of Connecticut, who was elected to the office by Congress on 17 January, 1781.

General officers had been empowered by Congress to draw warrants on the Paymaster General for payment of troops under their command. On a report from the Secretary of War, to whom was referred a plan of the Paymaster General for the better regulation of the pay of the army, Congress, on 8 April, 1782,

Resolved, That as all returns necessary to check the accounts of pay and rations, and to give full information of public issues of clothing and stores, are lodged at the War Office, the Secretary at War is hereby empowered and directed to issue his warrants on the Paymaster General, in favor of each regimental Paymaster, for the pay and rations which shall appear, on adjustment of their accounts, to be due to the regiments respectively, and to the head of each department, for the pay and rations due to such department; that the accounts for the pay and rations of each regiment, and of each department in the army, from 1 January, 1782, shall be made out at the end of every month, and be transmitted to the War Office for examination and warrants:

"That the manner of making the payments, of keeping the accounts, and the returns of the Regimental Paymaster be regulated by the Secretary at War:

"That the Paymaster General shall pay on the warrants of the Secretary at War, from such moneys as shall be put into his hands for the pay and rations of the troops, and to the orders of the Commander-in-chief, or officer commanding the Southern Army, from such moneys as shall be placed in his disposal for contingencies.

Resolved, That all resolutions heretofore passed empowering general officers to draw warrants on the Paymaster General, except that empowering the officer commanding the Southern Army, be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Resolved, That there be one Deputy Paymaster for the Southern Army:

"That there shall be one assistant allowed to the Paymaster General, who shall do the duties of a clerk:

"That the Paymaster General be, and he is hereby authorized to appoint his deputy and his assistant:

"That the Paymaster General immediately give bonds with two sureties, to the Superintendent of Finance, in the sum of \$15,000, for the faithful performance of his office."

The Paymaster General was authorized, on 16 May, to appoint a Deputy Paymaster to reside with the main army.

The Revolutionary Army was disbanded on 3 November, 1783, in pursuance of a proclamation issued by Congress on 18 October previous. On 1 April, 1785, Congress resolved that 700 troops were necessary for the protection of the north-western frontier, and on 12 April, 1785, specified the number which should be furnished by certain States, and provided that a Lieutenant should act as Paymaster.

The resolve of Congress of 20 October, 1786, increased the number to 2040 non-commissioned officers and privates. The army was fixed by the resolve of 3 October, 1787, at

1 Regiment of Infantry, 8 companies.

1 Battalion of Artillery, 4 companies.

* Sparks' Writings of Washington.

Paymaster General John Pierce had been continued in service settling his accounts, and as Commissioner for settling the accounts of the army. The two offices were united by resolution of Congress of 23 March, 1787, as follows:

"Resolved, That the services and duties of Paymaster General be, and hereby are united with those of Commissioner of Army Accounts." John Pierce died in August, 1788.

The first session of the first Congress of the United States was held on 4 March, 1789, at New York.

The Act of 29 September, 1789, recognized the force authorized by the resolve of 3 October, 1787, "to be the establishment for the troops in the service of the United States." The pay and allowances were to be the same as had been established by the resolution of 12 April, 1785.

The Act of 30 April, 1790, directed an increase of the force, and provided a Paymaster for the battalion of artillery.

After the death of John Pierce in 1788, the duties of the office of Paymaster General were administered by Joseph Howell, Jr., Commissioner of Army Accounts, until a Paymaster for the army was provided by the Act of 8 May, 1793, as follows:

"Section 3. That there be a Paymaster to reside near the headquarters of the troops of the United States. That it shall be the duty of the said Paymaster, to receive from the treasurer, all the moneys which shall be intrusted to him for the purpose of paying the pay, the arrears of pay, subsistence, or forage, due to the troops of the United States. That he shall receive the pay abstracts of the Paymasters of the several regiments or corps, and compare the same with the returns or muster rolls which shall accompany the said pay abstracts. That he shall certify, accurately, to the commanding officer, the sums due to the respective corps, which shall have been examined as aforesaid, who shall thereon issue his warrant on the said Deputy Paymaster, for the payment accordingly. That copies of all reports to the commanding officer, and the warrants thereon, shall be duly transmitted to the office of the accountant of the War Department, in order to be there examined, and finally adjusted at the Treasury. That the said paymaster shall give bond in the sum of \$20,000, with two sufficient sureties, for the faithful discharge of his duty; and he shall take an oath faithfully to execute the duties of his office. That the compensation to the said Paymaster shall be \$60 monthly, with the same rations and forage as a Major."

Caleb Swan, of Massachusetts, was appointed Paymaster of the army on 3 May, 1792, and continued in the office until 30 June, 1808.

Act of 9 May, 1794, directed the raising of 764 enlisted men, to be incorporated with the corps of artillery, and to be denominated the corps of Artillerists and Engineers, of four battalions, with an Adjutant and Paymaster to each battalion.

A Paymaster General was provided by the Act approved 30 May, 1796, and it was further provided that Paymasters of regiments should be appointed from the subalterns of their respective regiments. The general staff authorized by the Act was to continue in service until 4 March following, and no longer.

Act of 3 May, 1797, to amend and repeal in part the previous Act, provided for a Paymaster General.

A regiment of artillerists and engineers was provided by the Act of 27 April, 1798, with an Adjutant and Paymaster to each battalion.

The Act of 28 May, 1798, to raise a provisional army, provided for the employment of a Paymaster General, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, who should have the rank, pay, and emoluments of a Lieutenant Colonel.

The Act of 16 July, 1798, to augment the army of the United States, provided for the appointment of one Paymaster to each regiment.

The Act for the better organizing of the troops of the United States, and for other purposes, approved 3 March, 1799, provided for one Paymaster to each regiment of cavalry, artillery and infantry. The same Act provided for the appointment of Deputy Paymasters, and prescribed the bond to be given by the several Regimental Paymasters, as follows:

"Sec. 15. That the Paymaster General of the armies of the United States, shall always quarter at or near the headquarters of the main army, or at such place as the Commander-in-Chief shall deem proper; and that, to the army on the Western frontiers, and to detachments from the main army, intended to act separately for a time, he shall appoint Deputy Paymasters, who shall account to him for the money advanced

to them, and shall each give a bond, in the sum of \$15,000, with sufficient sureties, for the faithful discharge of their duties respectively, and take an oath faithfully to execute the duties of their offices; and the several Regimental Paymasters shall also give bond, in the sum of \$5000, with one or more sufficient sureties, and take an oath, as aforesaid, for the faithful discharge of the duties of their offices respectively; and that the Paymaster General shall receive \$80 per month, with the rations and forage of a Major, in full compensation for his services and travelling expenses; and the deputy, in addition to his pay, and other emoluments, \$30 per month, in full compensation for his extra services and travelling expenses."

Act of 16 March, 1802, fixing the military peace establishment, provided that from and after 1 June, 1802, the peace establishment should be composed of one regiment of artillerists, two regiments of infantry, and a corps of engineers. Section 3 of this Act provided "one Paymaster of the army, seven Paymasters and two assistants, to be attached to such districts as the President of the United States shall direct, to be taken from the line of commissioned officers, who, in addition to their other duties, shall have charge of the clothing of the troops." With pay as follows: "To the Paymaster of the army, \$120, without any other emolument, except such stationery as may be requisite in his department, and the use of the public office now occupied by him; each Paymaster attached to districts, \$30, and each assistant to such Paymaster \$10, in addition to his pay in the line."

Section 13 of this Act provides, "That the said corps shall be paid in such manner that the arrears shall at no time exceed two months, unless the circumstances of the case shall render it unavoidable."

Section 16. "That the Paymaster shall perform the duties of his office, agreeably to the direction of the President of the United States, for the time being: [*and before he enters on the duties of the same, shall give bonds, with good and sufficient sureties, in such sums as the President shall direct, for the faithful discharge of his said office;* and shall take an oath to execute the duties thereof with fidelity; and it shall, moreover, be his duty to appoint from the line, with the approbation of the President of the United States, the several Paymasters to districts and assistants prescribed by this Act; and he is hereby authorized to require the said Paymasters to districts, and assistants to enter into bonds, with good and sufficient surety, for the faithful discharge of their respective duties."]

The Act of 16 March, 1802, seems to have done away with regimental and battalion Paymasters, but the office was again created by the Act of 12 April, 1808, which provided an additional military force of five regiments of infantry, one of riflemen, one of light artillery, and one of light dragoons, with one Paymaster to each regiment, with \$10 per month in addition to pay in the line, and \$6 for forage when not furnished in kind.

Caleb Swan resigned as Paymaster of the army on 30 June, 1808, and was succeeded by Robert Brent, of the District of Columbia.

The Act of 11 January, 1812, provided one Paymaster to each of the ten regiments of infantry, two of artillery and one of light dragoons raised by that Act. The Act of 29 April, 1812, provided a Paymaster for the Corps of Engineers, to be taken from the subalterns. This was repealed by the Act of 5 July, 1838, which provided for transfer of the Paymaster of the Corps of Engineers to the Pay Department of the army.

The Act of 16 May, 1812, provided "That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, authorized and empowered to appoint as many District Paymasters, as in his judgment, the service may require; and, if such Paymasters are taken from the line of the army, they shall, respectively, receive \$30 per month, in addition to their pay in the line: *Provided*, The same shall in no case exceed the pay and emoluments of a Major; and, if not taken from the line, they shall receive the same pay and emoluments as a Major of infantry."

Section 2. "That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, authorized and empowered to appoint a Paymaster to each regiment on the peace establishment, who shall receive the same pay and emoluments as a Captain of the regiment to which he belongs: *Provided*, That all district and regimental Paymasters shall be subject to the rules and articles of war, and give such bonds to the United States as the Secretary for the Department of War may direct, for the faithful performance of their duties. And it shall be the duty of the commanding officer, when requested by the Paymaster,

to furnish a capable non-commissioned officer or soldier to aid him in the discharge of his duty, who, while so employed, shall receive double pay."

The Act of 26 June, 1812, provided that there be one Paymaster to each regiment authorized by that Act. And the Act of 6 July, 1812, authorized the President to appoint one Deputy Paymaster General from the line, to any army, other than that in which the Paymaster of the army shall serve, with \$50 per month in addition to his pay in the line, and assistant deputies, (not exceeding three to each department,) as the public service may require, who shall in like manner, be taken from the line, and who shall each be entitled to \$30 per month, in addition to his pay and other emoluments, which shall be in full compensation for his extra services."

The Act of 29 January, 1813, provided one Paymaster for each regiment raised under that Act, and the Acts referred to therein; as does the Act of 10 February, 1814, entitled "An Act to raise three regiments of riflemen."

Section 20 of the Act of 30 March, 1814, provided "That in no case shall the District Paymasters or Quartermasters of any grade be taken from the line of the army," and this Act does not provide regimental or battalion Paymasters for the organization created by it.

The Act of 18 April, 1814, fixed the annual salary of the Paymaster of the army at \$2000, and allowed a sum for clerk hire and contingent expenses of office. Also, authorized the appointment of Assistant District Paymasters, and defined the duties of Paymaster, District and Assistant District Paymasters.

The Act of 3 March, 1815, reduced and fixed the military peace establishment at 10,000 men, and provided that there should be one Paymaster to each regiment, to be taken from the subalterns of the line.

By this Act, the office of District and Assistant District Paymaster was abolished, but the Act did not affect the office of Paymaster of the army, or of Deputy Paymaster General. By Executive General Orders of 17 May, 1815, two Deputy Paymasters and two Assistant Deputy Paymasters were provisionally retained.

The Act of 24 April, 1816, organizing the general staff and making further provisions for the army of the United States, provided for a Pay Department as follows:

Section 3. "That the Pay Department shall consist of one Paymaster General of the army, with the annual salary of \$2500, and that, in addition to regimental Paymasters, there be appointed one Paymaster to each battalion of the corps of artillery, who, as well as the regimental Paymasters, in addition to the regular and punctual payment of their respective regiments or corps, shall discharge the duties of District Paymasters within such district as shall, from time to time, be assigned them by the Paymaster General, under the direction of the Secretary of War. *Provided*, That regimental and battalion Paymasters may be taken either from the subalterns of the army or citizens, and appointed by the President of the United States. *Provided also*, That regimental and battalion Paymasters shall receive the pay and emoluments of Major, and shall be allowed a capable non-commissioned officer as clerk, who, while so employed, shall receive double pay, and the actual expense of transportation while travelling under orders in the discharge of his duty."

Section 4 of this Act defines the duties of regimental and battalion Paymasters.

Section 6 prescribes that good and sufficient bonds shall be given.

Robert Brent resigned as Paymaster General on 28 August, 1819, and was succeeded by Nathan Towson, of Maryland. Colonel Towson was appointed Colonel Second Artillery, on 1 June, 1821, but his appointment was negated by the Senate. On the appointment of Colonel Towson to the artillery, 1 June, 1821, Daniel Parker, of Massachusetts, then Adjutant and Inspector General of the army, was appointed Paymaster General, but was superseded on 8 May, 1822, by the re-appointment of Colonel Towson, who continued in office as Paymaster General of the army until the date of his death.

Section 9 of the Act of 2 March, 1821, provided, "That there shall be one Paymaster General, with the present compensation, and fourteen Paymasters, with the pay and emolument of regimental Paymasters."

Section 4 of the Act of 14 July, 1832, provided, "That it shall be the duty of the District Paymasters of the army of the United States, in addition to the payments required to be made by them to the regular troops, to make payment to all other troops

in the service of the United States, whenever required thereto by order of the President.

Section 2 of the Act of 2 March, 1833, authorized the Secretary of War to allow, and pay District Paymasters a commission, not exceeding one per centum upon the amounts paid by them respectively, to the militia ordered into the service of the United States according to law.

The Act of 4 July, 1836, authorized the appointment of three Paymasters, and provided for the detail of any of the army to the duty of Paymaster, when volunteers or militia were called into service.

This is replaced in part by section 25 of the Act of 5 July, 1838, and modified by section 31 of the same Act, which prohibits the separating of any officer of the line of the army, employed as Paymaster from his regiment or company. (See R. S. Sec. 1224.)

Section 24 of Act of 5 July, 1838, provides: "That hereafter the officers of the Pay and Medical Departments of the army shall receive the pay and emoluments of officers of cavalry, of the same grades respectively according to which they are now paid by existing laws."

Section 25 provides for a temporary expansion of the Pay Department whenever militia or volunteers are called into service, as follows:

"That when volunteers or militia are called into the service of the United States, so that the Paymasters authorized by law shall not be deemed sufficient to enable them to pay the troops with proper punctuality, it shall be lawful for the President to appoint as many additional Paymasters as he shall deem necessary, who shall perform the same duty, give the same bond, be subject to the same liability, and receive the same pay and emoluments, as are now provided for Paymasters of the army: *Provided, however,* That the number so appointed shall not exceed one for every two regiments of militia or volunteers: *And provided also,* That the persons so appointed shall continue in service only so long as their services are required to pay militia and volunteers."

Under the authority given by the foregoing section of the Act of 5 July, 1838, the Pay Department was increased during the War with Mexico and the War of the Rebellion, by the appointment of a number of additional Paymasters, sufficient for the payment of the volunteer force called into the service of the United States. They were discharged on the disbandment of the volunteer troops.

Section 9 of the Act of 7 July, 1838, allowed the Paymaster General and Surgeon General of the army, the additional rations for every five years' service, granted by the Act of 5 July, 1838.

The Act of 17 June, 1846, authorized an increase of three Paymasters.

The department was again increased by section 12 of the Act of 3 March, 1847, which authorized the President "to add to the Pay Department of the army, two Deputy Paymaster Generals, with the pay and allowances each, of a Deputy Quartermaster General, and ten Paymasters, with the pay and allowances each, of a Paymaster of the army; and the officers so appointed shall give such bonds as the President shall from time to time direct: *Provided,* That the Deputy Paymaster Generals shall, in addition to paying troops, superintend the payment of armies in the field.

The ten Paymasters appointed under this Act were to be disbanded on 4 March, 1849, under section 8 of the Act of 19 July, 1848.

Section 13: "That the officers of the Pay Department shall have rank corresponding with the rank to which their pay and allowances are assimilated: *Provided,* That Paymasters shall not in virtue of such rank be entitled to command in the line or other staff departments of the army: *Provided also,* that the right to command in the Pay Department, between officers having the same rank, shall be in favor of the oldest in service in the department, without regard to the date of commission under which they may be acting at the time."

The last proviso of this section being sequent upon the Act of 15 May, 1820, which required a re-appointment every four years, is obsolete, rank being determined by date of commission or appointment.

Section 14. "That all Paymasters hereafter to be appointed by the President, for the volunteer service of the United States, shall be nominated to the Senate for confirmation to such office."

The Act of 12 August, 1848, authorized the Paymaster General to allow to any Paymaster of the army, who had been employed in the payment of volunteers, during the War with Mexico, a commission not exceeding one-half of one per centum, on all sums disbursed by them to volunteers, provided said commission did not exceed \$1000 per annum, from commencement to close of the war.

The Act approved 2 March, 1849, provided "that the Pay Department of the army shall consist of a Paymaster General, who shall have the rank of Colonel, and the same pay and allowances as are at present provided by law, and the same tenure of office as the heads of other disbursing departments of the army; two Deputy Paymasters General, with the same rank, pay and allowances as are now provided by law for such officers, and the same tenure of office as officers of like grade in other disbursing departments of the army; and twenty-five Paymasters, with the same rank, pay and allowances as are now provided by law for such officers, and the same tenure of office as officers of like grade in other disbursing departments of the army. That it shall be the duty of all disbursing officers of the Pay Department to renew their bonds, or furnish additional security, at least once in four years, or as much oftener as the President may direct.

"That the officers of the Pay Department, provided for by the first section of this Act, shall consist of the Paymaster General, the two Deputy Paymasters General now in commission, the fifteen paymasters who were in service under the Acts in force at the commencement of the War with Mexico, and ten Paymasters to be selected from the additional Paymasters now in service, and the thirteen Paymasters authorized by the Acts of 17 June, 1846, and 3 March, 1847."

There does not appear to have been any further legislation relative to the Pay Department, and the organization as provided by the above Act, continued until 1866. Colonel Nathan Towson, died at Washington, D. C., on 20 July, 1854, and was succeeded as Paymaster General, by the promotion of Colonel Benjamin F. Larned, of Massachusetts, then Deputy Paymaster General, who continued in office to the date of his death, at Washington, D. C., 6 September, 1862.

Colonel Timothy P. Andrews, of the District of Columbia, then Deputy Paymaster General, was promoted to be Paymaster General on 6 September, 1862, and continued in the office until he was retired on his own application, after forty or more consecutive years of service, in conformity with section 15 of the Act of 3 August, 1861. Colonel Andrews was succeeded by Benjamin W. Price, of Virginia, then Paymaster, who was appointed Paymaster General, 29 November, 1864, with the rank of Colonel, to 28 July, 1866, and of Brigadier General since that date. General Brice was retired from active service on 1 January, 1872, in conformity with section 12 of the Act of 17 July, 1862.

Section 18 of the Act of 28 July, 1866, provided, "That the Pay Department of the army shall hereafter consist of one Paymaster General, with the rank, pay and emoluments of a Brigadier General; two Assistant Paymasters General, with the rank, pay and emoluments of Colonels of cavalry; two Deputy Paymasters General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Lieutenant Colonels of cavalry; and sixty Paymasters, with the rank, pay and emoluments of Majors of cavalry, to be selected from persons who have served as additional Paymasters."

Section 23 provides that the Paymaster General shall be appointed by selection from the corps to which he belongs.

Section 6 of the Act of 3 March, 1869, prohibited new appointments and promotions in the Pay Department, but was so far modified by the Act of 4 June, 1872, as to authorize the President to "appoint a Paymaster General, with the rank, pay and emoluments of a Colonel, to date from the time the appointee assumed the duties of the office, to fill the vacancy now existing."

Under the authority of the above Act, Benjamin Alvord of Vermont, then Paymaster, was appointed Paymaster General of the army, with the rank of Colonel, from 1 January, 1872.

Under the interdict on appointment and promotion, vacancies of the two Deputy Paymaster Generals have occurred, which *still exist*, and the number of Paymasters was reduced by the casualties of service to forty.

The Act of 2 March, 1875, established the number of Paymasters at fifty, and by the Act of 22 July, 1876, the rank of Paymaster General was made Brigadier General,

under authority of which General Alvord, the Paymaster General, was appointed Brigadier General.

Brigadier General N. W. Brown succeeded Brigadier General Benjamin Alvord, as Paymaster General, upon the retirement of Brigadier General Alvord, 8 June, 1880.

Under the laws now in force, the organization of the Pay Department of the army is as follows:

One Paymaster General, with the rank of Brigadier General.

Two Assistant Paymasters General with the rank of Colonel.

Two Deputy Paymasters General, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Fifty Paymasters with the rank of Major.

NOTE.—For laws relative to organization of the Pay Department now in force, see Sections 1182 to 1194, inclusive, Revised Statutes, U. S., which went into operation 1 December, 1873, and the laws passed since that date, viz: Act of 2 March, 1875, 18 Stat., 338; Joint Resolution of 3 March, 1875, 18 Stat., 524; Act of 22 July, 1876, 19 Stat., 95.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The history of the Hospital Department of the army commences with the Siege of Boston, 1775, for the first legislative enactments of the Continental Congress only legalized what was already in existence, and gave a fixed organization to what the emergencies of occasion had called into being months before.

The Second Provincial Congress, of Massachusetts Bay, was at this time in session, and early foresaw the necessity that existed for action looking toward the proper care of the sick and wounded. With rare common sense, their first enactment provided for an examination of persons asking appointment as Surgeons, and on 8 May, 1775, they ordered:

“That the President *pro tempore*, Doctor Church, Doctor Taylor, Doctor Holten and Doctor Dansmore, be a committee to examine such persons as are or may be recommended for Surgeons of the army, now forming in this colony.” Doctors Baillies, Hall and Jones were subsequently added to the committee, and a proviso adopted that any three present should constitute a quorum.

Sixteen medical candidates presented themselves before this Board, and of this number six were rejected as “not qualified.” The subjects of the examination were Anatomy, Physiology, Surgery and Medicine.

After the Battle of Breed's Hill a hospital was established at Cambridge, and Doctor John Warren a brother and pupil of Doctor Joseph Warren, who fell while commanding the troops in that battle was placed in charge. He was soon after succeeded by Doctor Isaac Foster, of Cambridge, who was afterwards Deputy Director General.

About this time a Hospital was also established at Watertown, and another at Roxbury under the charge of Doctor Isaac Rand, and on 27 June a fourth, for the exclusive care of small-pox patients.

The Provincial Congress of Massachusetts exercised no supervision except over the troops from that province, while as time passed the forces from other States had assembled at Cambridge, and added to the aggregate of the army there formed, and the necessity that arose for a general medical, or as it was termed in the earliest legislative enactments, Hospital Department, and General Washington on 21 July, in a letter to the President of the Colonial Congress in session at Philadelphia, recommended the consideration of the Congress to the subject, but on 19 July Congress had anticipated this recommendation and appointed a committee consisting of Robert Treat Paine, of Massachusetts, Francis Lewis, of New York, and Henry Middleton, of South Carolina,