

BOSTON, MASS., May 23, 1899.

C. Gadsden Porcher

Inf Asst Engr R.C.S.

*Set on board what
you are thinking of*

DEAR SIR:

Your attention is invited to the following correspondence:

BOSTON, MASS., April 8, 1899.

CAPT. CHARLES F. SHOEMAKER, R. C. S.,
Chief of Division Revenue Cutter Service,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR:

We beg to advise you that on April 4, 1899, a meeting of officers of the Revenue Cutter service, serving on the stations at Boston, was held on board the "Manning" to devise means for laying before the next Congress the valid claims of the Service for appropriate recognition. This meeting was prompted by the opinion, not only among ourselves but in the Service generally, that some earnest and combined effort must be made in the direction indicated, and that the main object should be, as far as practicable, in the interests of all concerned. It must be admitted that legislation on the lines proposed is indispensable to the future welfare, efficiency, and standing of the Service, and, therefore, the subject is the most important that can now engage our attention.

The meeting referred to decided to present to the officers for their support the Bill, H. R. 11953 (Report No. 2100) of the 55th Congress, 3d Session, which was reported by the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce on February 11, 1899. A copy of this bill is doubtless in your possession. The meeting also adopted the plan of asking the Service to select by vote a committee of three officers—two of the line and one of the engineer corps, unconnected with the official conduct of affairs—which shall proceed to Washington at an opportune time and assume the responsibility in the matter of further details. It is understood that the committee chosen will pledge itself to the advancement of the proposed bill. The belief is expressed that an independent, representative committee of this kind, having the confidence of the Service and the Department, with the encouragement and opportunity to act, can be of greater advantage to our interests than any scheme of more elaborate preparation, and that such a committee can properly and cogently present to Congress the claims of the Revenue Cutter Service.

Since we desire to place this matter before the Service in the most forcible manner possible, we request your concurrence in our action. We should, therefore, be pleased to receive from you a letter stating your position, which, we trust, may be as follows:

1. That you approve the method advanced by the action of our meeting.
2. That, from your knowledge, the Secretary is in favor of the bill quoted.
3. That you will co-operate with and assist the committee chosen by the Service in all legitimate efforts for the success of this bill.

We believe that the use of a letter from you, embodying the foregoing points, will tend to unite the officers in this undertaking, and materially strengthen the prospects of our cause.

Respectfully yours,

ROBERT M. CLARK, Captain.
WILLIAM H. ROBERTS, Captain.
DAVID A. HALL, Captain.
J. EUGENE JEFFERIS, Chief Engineer.
WORTH G. ROSS, 1st Lieutenant.
HOWARD M. BROADBENT, 1st Lieutenant.
WILLITS PEDRICK, Chief Engineer.
JOHNSTONE H. QUINAN, 1st Lieutenant.
RICHARD O. CRISP, 2d Lieutenant.
GEORGE M. DANIELS, 2d Lieutenant.
COLIN S. CRAIG, 2d Lieutenant.

FRANK W. SMITH, 3d Lieutenant.
EDWARD J. NOONAN, Chief Engineer.
HERMANN KOTZSCHMAR, Jr., 1st Asst. Engineer.
URBAN HARVEY, 2d Asst. Engineer.
EDWIN W. DAVIS, 2d Asst. Engineer.
WILLIAM J. WHEELER, 3d Lieutenant.
JAMES F. HOTTEL, 3d Lieutenant.
FRANK G. SNYDER, 2d Asst. Engineer.
JOHN B. COYLE, 1st Asst. Engineer.
SAMUEL H. MAGEE, Chief Engineer.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 11, 1899.

CAPT. R. M. CLARK, R. C. S.,
and others.

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 3d instant, and, having carefully read the same, beg to reply as follows:

1. I stand today just where I have always stood in regard to the matters suggested in your letter, and, therefore, naturally coincide with any legitimate effort by anybody to advance the interests of the Revenue Cutter Service before Congress. I also believe it necessary to unify the Service upon any line of procedure deemed feasible. I think the whole matter should be supported by at least three-quarters of those interested. Under these conditions, I approve the method advanced by your meeting.

2. From my personal knowledge, I know that the Secretary of the Treasury approves the bill referred to, which I was in part instrumental in getting favorably reported by the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, 55th Congress, having appeared before that body and made all the talk in its behalf that was made by anybody.

3. I will co-operate with and assist any committee of officers appointed by vote of the Service, upon lines laid down in paragraph 1 of this letter, and aid to the best of my ability upon all legitimate and proper lines.

Very truly yours,

C. F. SHOEMAKER,
Captain, R. C. S.

Agreeably to the action taken at the meeting of April 4, referred to in the foregoing correspondence, you are requested to fill in the accompanying ballot naming a committee of three officers of your choice, and send it at once to the inclosed address — ballots to be counted by all available officers in Boston. It may be well to state that the necessary

expenses of the committee chosen by the Service, are to be defrayed by equal assessments upon those concurring in the proposition set forth. Should a committee not be selected on the first ballot, several names of those receiving the highest number of votes will be submitted to the Service for further consideration.

The following is the measure to be advocated (H. R. 11953, 55th Congress):

A BILL

TO PROMOTE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized to convene, from time to time, at his discretion, boards composed of three medical officers of either the Marine-Hospital Service or the naval or military establishments, for the purpose of examining and reporting upon all officers of the Revenue Cutter Service of the United States who, through no vicious habits of their own, have become, or hereafter may become, incapacitated by reason of the infirmities of age or physical or mental disability efficiently to perform the duties of their respective offices. And all officers who may be reported by said boards to be permanently incapacitated shall be placed on a retired waiting orders list, out of the line of promotion, with three-fourths duty pay of their respective grades, and the vacancies thereby created in the active list of the officers of the Revenue Cutter Service shall be filled by promotion in the order of seniority: *Provided*, That no such promotions shall be made until the professional qualifications of the candidates shall have been determined by written examination before a board of officers of the Revenue Cutter Service and their physical qualifications shall have been favorably determined by a board of medical officers, and such boards shall be convened by the Secretary of the Treasury whenever the exigencies of the service require such action: *Provided further*, That all officers of the Revenue Cutter Service who have been placed upon "permanent waiting orders," under the operations of the Act approved March second, eighteen hundred and ninety-five, shall, from and after the passage of this Act be entitled to and shall receive three-fourths of the duty pay of their respective grades. But nothing in this Act shall be construed as increasing the number of officers upon the active list now authorized by law, and no commissioned officer shall be retired from active service under the provisions of this Act who shall not have served as such commissioned officer for a period of ten years, unless he shall have incurred physical disability due to exposure in the line of and incident to the duties of his profession.

SEC. 2. That when any commissioned officer of the Revenue Cutter Service shall have served thirty-five consecutive years in said service he may be retired from active service by the President, upon his own application, and be placed on a retired waiting orders list, with three-fourths of the duty pay of his grade: *Provided*, That the duty pay of officers of the Revenue Cutter Service shall be that of naval officers of relative rank.

SEC. 3. That there shall be allowed and paid each commissioned officer of the Revenue Cutter Service ten per centum of his current yearly pay for each five years of service: *Provided*, That the total amount of such increase for length of service shall in no case exceed forty per centum of the yearly pay of the grade to which the officer belongs.

SEC. 4. That all laws or parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions of this Act be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Respectfully yours,

F. G. F. WADSWORTH, First Lieutenant, R. C. S.,
SAMUEL H. MAGEE, Chief Engineer, R. C. S.,
Sub-Committee.

C.G. Porcher RCS - Engineer papers

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