

The CHAIRMAN. We have before us a recommendation for \$7,000 for the collection of the Revolutionary records of the Navy Department and \$25,000 for the same purpose for the War Department.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. The two are going on hand in hand. The last Congress appropriated \$32,000 and the Army and ourselves are asking for \$32,000 more.

The CHAIRMAN. The last Congress provided \$32,000 to do whatever part of this work could be done with that amount, and no more.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. And it was passed with the distinct understanding it would be done for \$32,000. Now, both departments, apparently working together, have come in and asked to have the amount doubled.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. I would go further than that and say it will take altogether many years of appropriations of \$32,000 to complete the work.

The CHAIRMAN. How much will it take?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. We are working on that now. I can not give a definite answer. I can tell you what we have done to date in spending the \$32,000. We have taken the matter up with a committee appointed by the American Historical Association in order to get a survey of the field. The Revolutionary records at the present time are scattered, far more so than the Civil War records, all over this country, in State capitols, a few in Washington, but comparatively few. This survey will cost us, I take it, about \$10,000.

The CHAIRMAN. It will cost \$10,000 to find out where these records are?

Mr. BARTLETT. Do you know how much the Civil War records cost?

Mr. BRECKINRIDGE. About \$3,000,000.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Was that simply the Army part of the work or the whole thing?

Mr. BRECKINRIDGE. The whole thing, I think.

The CHAIRMAN. Has any one made an estimate of what this work will cost?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. We can not until we finish the surveys, but it will certainly cost a good deal less than \$3,000,000.

The CHAIRMAN. Three million dollars?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Yes; the Rebellion records cost \$3,000,000.

The CHAIRMAN. You are not talking about \$3,000,000 in connection with this work?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. No; it will be less than that.

Mr. BARTLETT. How much less than \$3,000,000 do you think this will take?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. I would have to ask some of the experts about that.

The CHAIRMAN. This legislation was passed upon representations made that for \$32,000 the two departments could collate the more important and more valuable part of these records.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. May I ask who made the representations? Certainly nobody in the department.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. No historian could have made that statement.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. e. Personally I do not think we will need anything like \$1,000,000. I think if we could get an annual appropriation of \$32,000 for 10 or 12 years that would be sufficient, and you would get a very valuable series and save a great deal of material that would otherwise be lost.

Mr. Sisson. What do you think is the real value of this work, Mr. Secretary?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. It is of tremendous value in the study of the history of the country and so many different ways that I regard the publication as a necessity.

appropriation.

Mr. BARTLETT. I imagine you find the records in Virginia and North Carolina very full, do you not?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Very.

Mr. Sisson. Those four men whom you have employed are outside of the Army and the Navy?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Yes, sir. They are trained historians.

Mr. Sisson. What salary do they receive?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. \$200 a month.

Mr. Sisson. After they get all this data listed what will be the cost of photographing the letters and documents?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. About 10 cents a page. That will be done in triplicate.

Mr. Sisson. I do not see how it can cost so much money.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Well, if you figure it at 50 or 60 volumes, 800 to 1,000 pages per volume, that makes a good many photostat pages, and at 10 cents per page the cost would run rather high.

Mr. Sisson. You would like to have just one, even a short document, on a sheet?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Yes, sir.

Mr. Sisson. And when you put it in the printed volumes you can put any number of them on one page?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Yes, sir.

Mr. Sisson. The photostating would really cost more than the printing?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. This committee has no authority to recommend an appropriation in addition to what you have.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Is it as bad as that?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, sir. It would be subject to a point of order.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Will you not take the risk of the point of order!

The CHAIRMAN. We would not take the risk. I think what should

The CHAIRMAN. If you found where the records were, it might influence many of these historical societies to go on with the work?

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Except that this is a Government work.

The CHAIRMAN. For instance, Dutchess County Historical Society publishes some very interesting monographs on things up there, and the Long Island Historical Society does it in our section of the State.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Those are not as valuable as a Government publication which is done in a uniform way.

The CHAIRMAN. The historical publications which I have seen, both of the State and of the Federal Government, hardly justify the expenditure. Is there any particular advantage in printing a large

FDR in *energetic exchange* with Congressional Chair over \$32,000 budget request to catalogue Revolutionary War records in 1914.

February 12, 1914
Washington DC

Out-takes from testimony of then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, as he engages with the Chairman of the Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations, Congressman John J Fitzgerald.

Roosevelt was looking to upgrade the \$32,000 allocated by congress for the preservation of Revolutionary War records with another \$32,000.

Fitzgerald:

"...might [you] influence many of these historical societies to go on with the work? For instance Dutchess County Historical Society publishes some interesting monographs on things up there..."

FDR:

Those are not as valuable as a Government publication which is done in a uniform way.

FDR:

"...it will certainly cost a good deal less than \$3,000,000" "Personally I don't think we'll need anything like \$1,000,000."

"...no historian could have made that statement!"

"will you not take the risk of a point of order?"

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1914.

NAVAL AND MILITARY RECORDS OF THE REVOLUTION.

STATEMENTS OF MR. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY; MR. HENRY S. BRECKINRIDGE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR; MAJ. JOHN BIGELOW, UNITED STATES ARMY, RETIRED; AND MR. CHARLES W. STEWART, SUPERINTENDENT LIBRARY AND NAVAL WAR RECORDS OFFICE.