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THE NAVY RELIEF SOCIETY

— WHAT IT IS, AND WHAT IT IS DOING

Although the Navy Relief Society, as we know it today, was not incorporated until 1904, the idea behind the Society was conceived as early as 1820.

This fact came to light only last year at the Portsmouth Navy Yard, with the discovery, in the basement of the Commandant's office, of a time-worn document which proved to be a circular sent out in February, 1820, inviting dignitaries of the Portsmouth Navy Yard to meet with high ranking officers from Boston and New York, in the former city, for the purpose of forming a relief society.

The Society's creed is that no man in the naval service, or any member of his family, shall ever suffer as a result of service exigencies, and this has contributed mightily toward the high morale so noticeable among Navy personnel.

The Society has its main offices in the Navy Department in Washington. During all these years, it has lived mainly on its own income and the generosity of the officers and men of the service. The officers of the Society are: Honorary president, Franklin D. Roosevelt; president, Admiral H. R. Stark, Chief of Naval Operations; honorary vice presidents, Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy; James V. Forrestal, Under Secretary of the Navy and Ralph A. Bard, Assistant Secretary of the Navy; secretary and treasurer, Rear Admiral C. R. Train, U. S. Navy (Retired).

The purpose of the Society is this: No widow, no orphaned children, no mother or other member of the Navy man's family shall suffer hardship if it can be prevented.

The Society gives immediate financial help to the family when necessary after a Navy man dies from any cause; gives help in emergency operations and medical treatment in the family; provides continued aid to the Navy man's dependents who need care, and helps in the education of dependent young, giving them a right start in life. The Society operates through outright grants, by regular payments while need continues, and by loans without interest.

The Navy Relief Society is the enlisted man's "anchor to windward." It is organized by the Navy and within the Navy to look after the Navy's own. The Society is made up entirely of Navy personnel and their wives.

In normal peace times, without casualties and without a war-time emergency, the Navy Relief Society receives and expends about \$200,000 a year. In 1941

the Society cared for some 11,000 cases and disbursed in loans and grants more than \$500,000, and disbursed in monthly grants and outright gifts about \$136,000 in 4,000 needy cases.

Now, for the first time in its history, the Society is faced with a problem far beyond its ability to meet from its own resources. The United States Navy now includes not only the U. S. Marine Corps but the entire personnel of the Coast Guard as well. All together, the Navy personnel now represents about a half million families.

No one can doubt that in a war which has spread over the entire globe, the needs of the Navy Relief Society will be large and urgent in future months. Barring major catastrophe and extraordinary casualties, however, it is hoped that the sum of \$5,000,000—the amount the Society is striving to raise in its current nation-wide drive—will be sufficient to meet all needs.

This fund of \$5,000,000 will be spent in accordance with the established purposes of the Society.

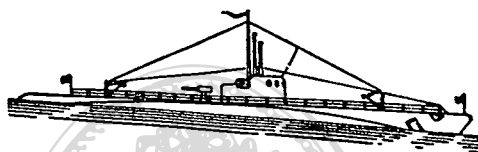
The fund will be administered by the Board of Managers of the Society, made up entirely of Navy men and their wives. On the basis of budget estimates, funds will be allotted to the 28 Navy auxiliaries and to Coast Guard welfare located in cities where many thousands of Navy, Marine and Coast Guard families have their homes.

In order to prevent the duplication of facilities, the Navy Relief Society will continue to work through the American Red Cross in investigating the financial need of the families of Navy men in all parts of the United States where the Navy does not have its own auxiliaries. In these cities, as in the past forty years, the need is investigated and established by members of the Auxiliaries—chaplains, wives and other relatives of Navy men.

Mrs. John D. Wainright, wife of Rear Admiral Wainright, Commandant of the Portsmouth Navy Yard, is president of the Maine and New Hampshire chapter of the Navy Relief Auxiliary, and Mrs. H. F. D. Davis, wife of Captain Davis, industrial manager of the Yard, is vice president of the chapter.

Fund-raising committees of citizens in important communities throughout the country are now being organized and the \$5,000,000 sought has been apportioned equitably among them.

HISTORY OF THE ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURING SHOP PORTSMOUTH NAVY YARD



Back in the days before the Portsmouth Navy Yard commenced the building of submarines, work for the Yard force was entirely dependent on the overhaul and repair of ships. This caused large fluctuations in the number employed and incident to one of these slack periods commencing about 1908, the Master Electrician conceived the idea of obtaining authority to manufacture certain standard articles and fittings during these slack periods to be used when the ships came for overhaul. This manufacturing work gradually expanded as the shop established a reputation for the excellence of its products until this part of the work became greater and more important than the repair work.

As the volume of work expanded, it was found necessary to separate the manufacturing work from the repair work and the force of mechanics used for ship work was transferred and the manufacturing work was continued as a separate activity, occupying the ground floor of the present building. The work continued to expand until it required not only the entire building but it was necessary to construct a large addition to the same.

During the first World War, the force was greatly expanded and continuous shifts were required. During

this period over one thousand women were employed in the various shop operations. Following that period and in spite of a large reduction in force, the shop continued its excellent work and the Yard was officially designated as the manufacturing and development Yard for all electrical fittings for the entire United States Navy.

Incident to the great expansion of the Navy building program during the past few years, the volume of work has become such as to over tax the facilities of the shop in spite of large increases in the number of employees, further additions, and the establishment of continuous 24 hour shifts; and it has become necessary to farm out some of the work to outside contractors.

M. A. Barrett, our Master Machinist (Electrical) was placed in charge of the shop on November 1, 1918, and has served continuously since that time. Mr. Barrett first entered Government service shortly after his return from service in the Philippines during the Spanish War, as a mechanic and later as a member of the Planning and Estimating force. A large share of the success of the shop is credited to his able supervision.

14 April, 1942.

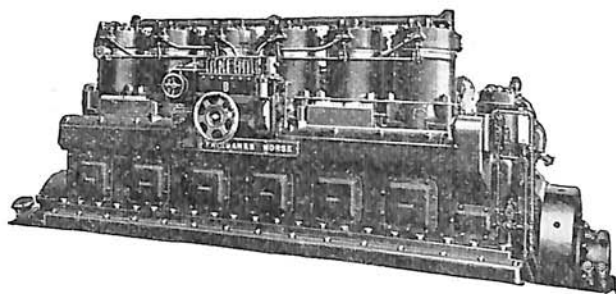
*"The burden which is well borne
becomes light"—Ovid*

The Navy Relief Society has lightened the burdens of many, in times of stress.

It is our duty to so recognize this fact and assist whenever possible in the continuance of the ideals established by this organization.

Justin D. Hartford
U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY, CLASS OF 1920
Publisher

The Portsmouth Herald



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THANKS A MILLION, EVERYBODY



We, the members of the committee in charge of arrangements for the Navy Relief Minstrel Show, desire to express our appreciation to every one who has contributed toward the success of the undertaking.

It would be unfair to single out any one group or individual, and it is manifestly impracticable to mention all those who have given so freely of their time, despite the sacrifices entailed. But we feel that a special word of thanks must be extended to our advertisers; to the members of the cast; to the newspapers, which have been so generous in making their columns available to us, and to Radio Station WHEB of Portsmouth.

We hope you have enjoyed our show; we have done our best to make it entertaining. In any event, you have the satisfaction of knowing that you have contributed mightily toward the worthiest possible cause, and that to our thanks will be added the heartfelt appreciation of the wives and children of hundreds of Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, innocent victims of a war-torn world.

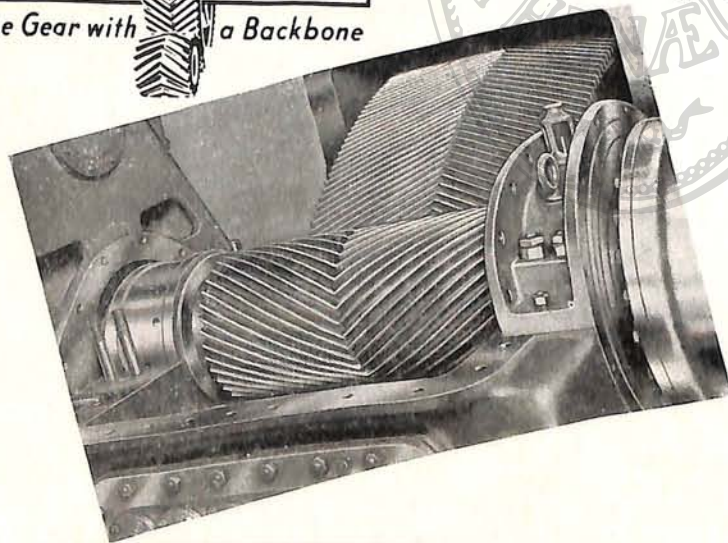
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The committee desires to express its appreciation to the following officers.

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*"The burden which is well borne
becomes light"—Ovid*

The Navy Relief Society has light-
ened the burdens of many, in
times of stress.

It is our duty to so recognize this fact
and assist whenever possible in
the continuance of the ideals
established by this organiza-
tion.

Justin D. Hartford
U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY, CLASS OF 1920
Publisher

The Portsmouth Herald



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In Memoriam

JAMES J. LANDRY

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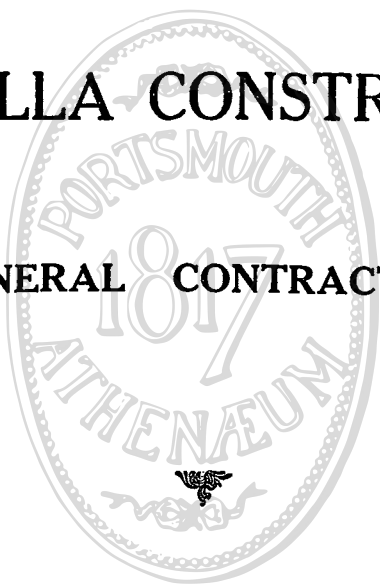


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A STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION

As President of the New Hampshire Auxiliary of the Navy Relief Society, and on behalf of the Society as a whole, it is my pleasure to express our sincere gratitude to all those who have helped to make this benefit such an outstanding success.

We of the Navy Relief Society are fully aware of the ever-increasing burden which has been thrust upon all of us by the demands of war. This makes us all the more appreciative of the sacrifices you have made, whether in time, or money, or both, to lend a helping hand to the Society in what is truly its greatest challenge and its darkest hour.

Thanks to you, and thousands of others like you throughout this great country of ours, the challenge will be met and the darkness dispelled; if it were not so, this would not be America.

In helping the Navy Relief Society, you are bolstering the morale of our Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, and in doing that, you are making a tremendous contribution towards the winning of the war. These brave men look upon the Navy Relief Society as their guaranty that their families shall not want. We must not let them down.

MRS. JOHN D. WAINWRIGHT.

. . PROGRAM . .

Interlocutor	William Keefe
END MEN—John Regan, Warren Hall, Tom Ahern, Alex Sadowsky, Roy Emery, James McKone, William O'Brien, Ralph Gerry.	
Overture	Entire Chorus
"Carry Me Back to Old Virginia"	
"Memories"	
"Coon Song"	Introducing the End Men
"The Band Played On"	"Chink" Lee and "Dit" O'Leary
"Let Me Call You Sweetheart"	Dance by Caroline Hughes
"My Old Kentucky Home"	Fred Butterworth and Chorus
"Oh, Susanna"	End Men and Chorus
"Daisey Bell,"	Paul Hartson and Partner
"After the Ball"	Joseph Louthier and Alyce Heggart
"Alexander's Ragtime Band"	End Men and Chorus
<hr/>	
"Just Because She Made Those Goo Goo Eyes"	Alex Sadowsky
"Till the Sands of the Desert Grow Cold"	Harry J. Cates
Old Time Clog Dance	Jerry Spellman
"Dark Town Strutters Ball"	William O'Brien
"I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen"	Arthur J. Madden
Accordian Solo	Al Ouellette
"Alabama Barbecue"	Tom Ahern
Banjo Selection	William A. Langford
Solo—Selected	Don Grady
"Ain't That a Shame"	James McKone
Solo—Selected	J. P. Frew
Tap Dance	Val Mates
Quartette—Selections	M. Noyes, S. Tilton, R. Howard, H. Cates
"Man on the Flying Trapeze"	Paul Hartson
"Old Black Joe"	Francis Bowles
Songs My Mother Used to Sing, banjo accompaniment	Wm. A. Langford
"Preacher and the Bear"	Ralph Gerry
Accordian Assemble	G. Scott, M. Parnell, R. Patzke, C. Szymanski
Solo—Selected	Fred Butterworth
"Mammy"	Roger Emery
Song and Dance	Francis Bowles
"For You Alone"	Clarence Schirmer
"Won't You Come Home Bill Bailey"	Warren Hall
Bathing Beauties	C. Weeks, M. Parnell, W. Everson, A. Verrette
"Rufus Rastus Brown"	John Regan
Grand Finale	Entire Company

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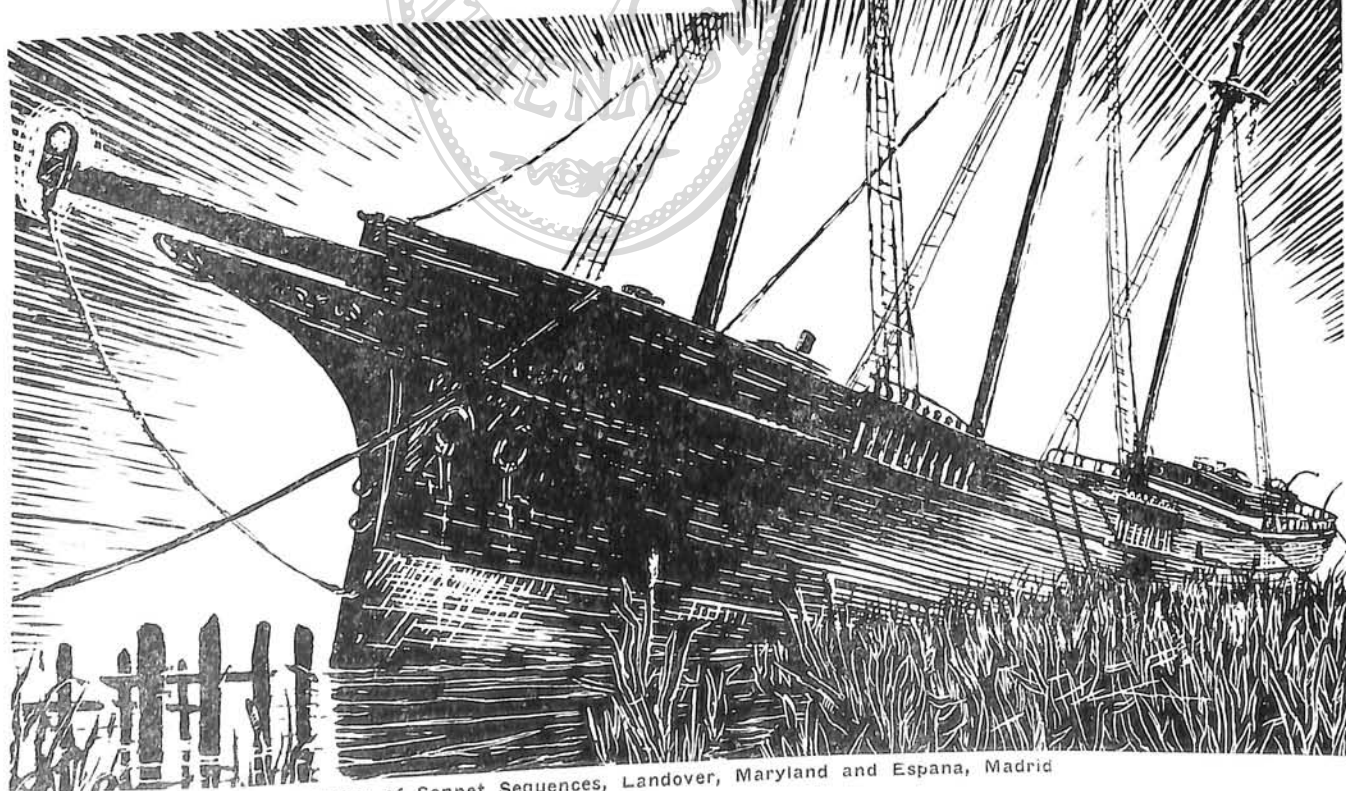
TRIPPED of my sails, my topmasts and
my spars
I lie, an ancient hulk, a glory
past.

A splintered heap, upon the shore, lie massed
The spreading yards whose canvas swept the stars.
The wreckers take their toll, their pikes and bars
Strip off each thing of value till at last
By hand of man the die of fate is cast—
A rotting hull, with pride I bear the scars.

And proudly still, my once gilt prow stands high
Above the murky waters off the quay.
A lonely monument, beneath the sky
I stand, your sympathy a waste to me.
But at the hour of judgment thus shall I
Appeal—"I won my battle with the sea."

—Owen Davis

O DAVIS
1937



By courtesy of Sonnet Sequences, Landover, Maryland and Espana, Madrid

Courtesy of the Portsmouth Athenaeum, Portsmouth, N.H.

CIRCULAR.

BOSTON, February 9, 1820.

Sir,

CIRCULARS having been received from a highly respectable Committee of Officers on the New-York Station, requesting the co-operation of the Officers on this Station in forming a general Society, to be composed of Officers of the Navy and Marine Corps, for the relief and support of the Widows and Families of Officers who may be killed in battle or die while in service, Commodore Isaac Hull, senior Naval Officer on this station, called a meeting of the Officers at his house, in the Navy Yard, Charlestown, on Saturday, the 8th inst. which was fully attended by the Officers on this and the Portsmouth Stations, and in the vicinity.

THE opinion was unanimous, that the organization of such an Association is an object of great importance, and it was resolved, cordially to co-operate with their brother Officers in promoting this important institution. The undersigned were appointed a Committee to take the necessary preliminary steps on behalf of the Officers on these Stations, to correspond with the Commissioners of the Navy Board and Comalettes on other Stations upon all subjects relative to the organization and government of the Association. The Committee is empowered to appoint one or more Delegates, as may be deemed expedient, to meet those from other Stations, for the purpose of forming the Society, and digesting a plan for carrying into effect this laudable object.

It was the opinion of the Meeting, and in that of the Committee, that the appointment of Delegates to meet and deliberate upon the subject, and prepare a Constitution, would be the best method of accomplishing the desirable object. Should this course meet your views, and those of the Officers on your Station, it is respectfully requested that they should be communicated to our brethren at New-York, to this Committee, and to the different Stations.

If it should be the opinion of the Officers generally that Delegates should meet, this Committee will suggest New-York as the most central station, and mention Tuesday, the fourth day of July next, as a proper time. The day is indeed somewhat distant; but considering that an Association of such an extent, and intended to be of such duration, should not be made hastily, and that the time will not be more than sufficient to learn the views of our distant brother Officers, and receive their Delegation, the Committee believe that it would be better than an earlier day.

THE outlines proposed by the Committee at New-York, of which you are undoubtedly in possession, do in the main meet the entire approbation of this Committee, and the Officers in this vicinity. But in addition to their propositions, this Committee would respectfully suggest as a subject worthy of consideration, whether instead of ten dollars as a fee of admittance, that each Officer becoming a Member shall give one half of his month's pay; and as he is promoted, contribute the difference between his former half pay and that of the grade to which he has been advanced.

It is further suggested, as more claims will be upon the funds of the Society, in consequence of the events of War, that a stipulated portion of premiums, say two per cent, should be contributed to the funds by the Members of the Association. This would be little felt by the Members, while it would greatly enhance the means of relieving the claimants.

THE Committee is of opinion that the details for the government and management of the Society should be left to the contemplated Convention of Delegates, who will undoubtedly be instructed in the views of the Officers on the different Stations.

You will have the goodness to accept these hints, merely as in offers to which your attention is invited. Judging from the feelings which pervade the Officers here, this Committee is sanguine in believing that an Association can be formed upon such a permanent basis as to become extensive and long-lived.

THE Committee request the correspondence of any Committee which may be appointed on your Station. Communications may be directed to Com. SHAW, Chairman of this Committee.

JOHN SHAW,
JAMES RENSHAW,
ROBERT D. WAINWRIGHT,
DAVID GEISINGER,
CHIEVER FELCH,
SAMUEL R. TREVETT, JR.
WILLIAM S. BURGESS,
CHARLES F. WALDO,
WILLIAM BODEN,

The fact that the origin of the society dates back to 1820 came to light here at the Portsmouth Navy Yard only last year when this musty old document was found in the basement of the Commandant's office. Upon examination, it proved to be a circular sent out in February, 1820, and extending an invitation to dignitaries of the Portsmouth Navy Yard to meet with high ranking officers from Boston and New York in the former city for the purposes of organization.

In the first year of existence, the society dealt with 20 relief cases and handled \$450. From this modest beginning, the organization has grown until this year when it has already handled nearly 11,000 cases.

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—HON. FRANK A. KNOX,
Secretary of the Navy.

June 22, 1941, at the memorial service for the crew
of the O-9.

"We, the Coast Guard, are part of the Navy Relief and the funds that the Navy Relief raises, will go to help those in distress in the Coast Guard, for Coast Guard officers and men are fighting now in most of the oceans of the globe."

—VICE-ADMIRAL R. R. WAESCHE
United States Coast Guard



"Wars are won by men. As a Marine, a member of the Naval Service, I cannot praise too highly the work of the Navy Relief Society. That the families of the men of the Naval Service may not suffer want, this Society exists; and it has gloriously fulfilled its mission in the past."

—LT. GEN. THOMAS HOLCOMB
Commandant of the Marine Corps

THE SUBMARINE O-9

A flag at half mast . . . mute evidence of a supreme loss. Such were the doors of 33 homes of the crew of the O-9 decorated after the old Sub made her last dive. These flags represented 33 lives voluntarily dedicated to the service of the flag that now announced their death. They died voluntarily to preserve the right to volunteer; the right to do things the American way.

Behind the scenes there were the grief stricken families. Accidents and wars are never opportune. Sympathy came in great gulfs, but too came the more substantial aid of the Navy Relief Society. Aid that in some material way surplanted the chaos of sudden death. Aid that was the result of contributions and patronage of American citizens; voluntary gifts and activity that proved their belief in the American Way of life. It is a great circle of service, a circle of democratic spirit that comes from the fraternity of democracy. A result of the teachings of the great Benefactor, WE OF AMERICA ARE OUR BROTHERS' KEEPERS.

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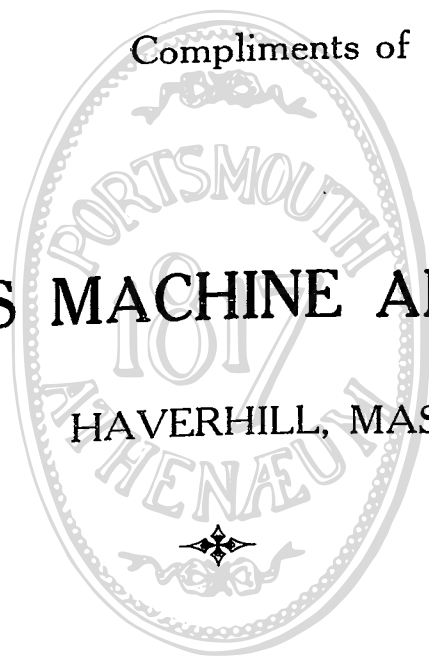
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NATIONAL RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Fellow Navy Yard Employees:

This Association with the Joint Conference has worked up the present retirement legislation which we may now or at some future date enjoy.

The Ramspeck Bill, H. R. 3487, enacted January 24, 1942, provides the following important changes in the existing law:

1. For uniform age retirement at **age 70 after 15 years of service** for all employees.
2. (a) Optional retirement with **30 years of service** for all groups at **age 60**.
(b) Optional retirement at **age 62 with 15 or more years of service** for all groups.
(c) Optional retirement for all groups at **age 55 with 30 years of service**, with immediate annuity based on the present worth of a deferred annuity at age 60.
3. The contribution of the employees is increased from **3½% to 5%** of basic salary, starting July 1, 1942.
4. A more equitable method of computing annuities by allowance of 1-70th of the basic salary for each year of service up to **35 years**.

This Retirement Act contains the most desirable and needed changes that have ever been passed to amend the Civil Service Retirement Law.

The 1942 drive for membership is now on; see the collector in your shop. The \$1.00 subscription goes toward the large per capita tax of the association, to keep our National Representative, Mr. Robert H. Alcorn, on the job in Washington.

Respectfully submitted,

HERMAN J. CHANDLER,

President.

Roy W. Sturtevant, Treasurer.

William J. Wardwell, Secretary.

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