

NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

Copy of a communication from the secretary of the National Board of Health, and inclosing estimates of deficiencies in the appropriations for the salaries and expenses of the National Board of Health for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887.

JANUARY 21, 1887.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *January 20, 1887.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of letter of the secretary of the National Board of Health of October 8, 1886, inclosing estimates of deficiency in the appropriation for salaries and expenses of the National Board of Health for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887, amounting to \$7,500.

Respectfully, yours,

D. MANNING,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH,
Washington, D. C., October 8, 1886.

SIR: In transmitting the estimates to cover deficiencies in appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887, I am directed to invite attention to the laws prescribing the duties and defining the powers of the National Board of Health.

Under the act approved March 3, 1879, it is made the duty of the Board to collect information on all matters relating to public health, to advise the several Departments of the Government, the executives of the several States, and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia on all questions submitted by them, or whenever in the opinion of the Board such advice may tend to the improvement and preservation of the public health, and to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the act.

The act also prescribes the compensation which the members shall receive when engaged in the performance of their duties.

By the act approved July 1, 1879, the Board is authorized and empowered to provide suitable office-rooms in the District of Columbia, at a rental not exceeding \$1,800 per annum, and, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to pay its secretary a sum not exceeding \$100 per month.

By the virtue of the authority vested in the Board by these laws, the necessary rules and regulations have been made and suitable offices provided. Under these rules the secretary of the Board is on duty constantly, and is entitled to the compensation prescribed in the acts referred to.

The appropriation made at the last session of Congress provided only for a portion of the expenses necessarily incurred during the month of July, and as the appropriations were not finally acted upon until August 5, the Board had entered upon the occupancy of its offices during that month, and the lessor became entitled to another month's rent, the offices being held by the month.

Although clearly authorized by law to retain the possession of the offices heretofore occupied, still, in the absence of appropriations to meet expenses to be incurred in the execution of the laws, the executive committee at once undertook to reduce expenses to the lowest point possible consistent with the responsibilities resting upon the Board. To this end the secretary was directed to provide for the care of the public property and for the performance of such duties as are required by law pending further action by Congress. Efforts were made to obtain rooms in public buildings, but without success. The necessary room was therefore obtained from private parties at a cost of \$30 per month.

The estimates herewith submitted are believed to be sufficient to cover expenses authorized by law to the end of the next session of Congress, and to enable the Board to more fully perform its duties during the remainder of the fiscal year.

The importance of these appropriations is most earnestly urged, but in case it shall be deemed undesirable to continue this work, which has for its object the preservation and improvement of the health of the people, it is recommended that the laws devolving such duties upon the Board be repealed.

Very respectfully,

W. P. DUNWOODY,
Secretary.

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

Estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887, by the National Board of Health.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

| | |
|--|------------|
| For per diem and expenses of members and pay of secretary (March 3, 1879, vol. 20, page 484, sections 1 to 4; July 1, 1879, vol. 21, page 46, sections 1 to 7; July 1, 1886, vol. 24, pages 343, 345)..... | \$6,000 00 |
| For clerk and messenger, same acts..... | 600 00 |
| For rent, fuel, telegrams, and postage, same acts..... | 900 00 |
| Total..... | 7,500 00 |
| Amount appropriated for current fiscal year..... | 424 66 |