

Subject: Project for expenditure of app'n June 3, '96, for improving Chicago River, in Illinois.

CHICAGO AND CALUMET HARBORS.

ILLINOIS AND CALUMET RIVERS.

ILLINOIS AND MISSISSIPPI CANAL.

MAJOR W. L. MARSHALL,

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U. S. A.

## United States Engineer Office,

1687 Indiana Avenue, P. O. Drawer 132

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Chicago, Ill., June 25, 1896.

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Brig. Gen. Wm. P. Craighill,  
Chief of Engineers, U.S.A.,  
Washington, D.C.

General:-

I have the honor to submit the following project for the expenditure of the appropriation made by the River and Harbor Act of June 3, 1896, here quoted below, to wit:-

(6.)- For improving Chicago River, in Illinois, from its "mouth to the stock yards on the South Branch and to Belmont Avenue on the North Branch, as far as may be permitted by existing docks and wharves, to be dredged to admit passage by vessels drawing sixteen feet of water, according to the recommendation of Captain W. L. Marshall, of the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army, in his report under date of August ninth, eighteen hundred and ninety-three: Continuing Improvement, \$50,000.00.

"PROVIDED, That contracts may be entered into by the Secretary of War for such materials and work as may be necessary to complete the said project of improvement to be paid for as appropriations may from time to time be made by law, not to exceed in the aggregate \$650,000.00 exclusive of the amount herein and heretofore appropriated."

The report of Captain W. L. Marshall, " does not "recommend" the expenditure of money in Chicago River other than conditioned, which conditions are not fulfilled. Certain work is stated to be in the interest of commerce and navigation, if Congress think proper to order it done, but it was not recommended by me to be done.

Congress has thought proper in this act to direct it to be

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My estimate of \$700,000.00 covered, besides the dredging, widening the river at certain points and rebuilding docks over 8000 linear feet. The Act of June 3, limits the work to dredging " as far as may be permitted by existing docks and wharves".

This dredging in the Report of 1893 was estimated at 1,200,000 cubic yards, and this is as near correct now as then, which at 30 cents per cubic yard will require only \$360,000.00 in all, instead of \$700,000.00, which latter estimate included the cost of rebuilding some <sup>the river</sup> docks and widening, at some places, with payment for lands taken, but with no "damages" estimated.

It is the evident intention of Congress to embark in dredging Chicago River within the shore line, as evidenced by two consecutive River and Harbor Acts, and the project now submitted is in accord with the intent of the law, and not as understood by me " in accordance with the recommendation of Capt. W. L. Marshall."

I recommend under the law now in question that a contract be entered into with the lowest responsible bidder, after soliciting proposals for 30 days by public advertisement for dredging Chicago River, within the limits stated, to a depth admitting navigation by vessels of 16 feet draft, conditioned as required by the Act of June 3, 1896, Section 5.

As far as this contract relates to the present appropriation of \$50,000.00 I recommend that the work shall begin at the Forks of the Chicago River, and be expended on the two branches in proportion to their commercial importance. Future appropriations to be expended

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three-fifths on the South Branch until completed, and two-fifths on the North Branch, and then all on the North Branch till the limits are reached. The dredging to be done on the North Branch is greater in amount, but the commerce is less.

There is already a sum of about \$21,000.00 remaining on hand from the appropriation of August 17, 1894, applicable to dredging between the mouth of Chicago River and the Forks of the River, which is much more than sufficient for the purpose.

I understand that it is the intent of the act to prosecute the work in a progressive and continuous manner, and to do no redredging. The City of Chicago uses the river as a dumping ground, and it is understood that this practice will not be further allowed; that the United States will not undertake the scavenger work heretofore done by the City, or the removal of this filth so dumped into the stream, but that the laws of the United States relating to dumping ashes, refuse, filth and solid matters of all kinds into Chicago River shall be rigidly observed and enforced.

On any other basis work done by the United States on Chicago River will be of no avail.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

*William H. ...*  
Major, Corps of Engineers.

Thro'  
The Division Engineer,  
Northwest Division.