



HEADQUARTERS

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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My dear Mr. Secretary.

The work of combining the two branches of the public service formerly known as the Revenue-Cutter Service and the Life-Saving Service into a single systematic organization designated the Coast Guard, as contemplated and authorized by Act of Congress approved January 28, 1915, has been prosecuted as diligently as practicable and is now nearing completion.

Section 4 of the Act referred to provides that -

When the organization of the Coast Guard shall have been perfected the President is authorized to retire the general superintendent on seventy-five per centum of his present salary, and no further appointment shall be made to such office.

It follows that whenever in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury the time referred to in the Act shall arrive, I may expect to be relieved from active duty. In anticipation of this event I desire to express my pleasure that my participation in the responsible conduct of the Life-Saving Service of which, under the direction of twenty Secretaries of the Treasury, and through ten successive administrations of the Government, I have had immediate supervision, is to come to a close under auspices so favorable. During this period of forty-four years the Life-Saving Service has developed from insignificant beginnings into the highest exponent of our national benevolence, holding unchallenged preeminence over all similar agencies in existence. Prior to the

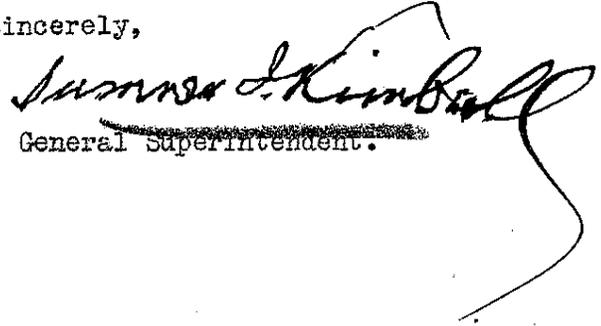
passage of the Act of January 28, 1915, however, the maintenance of this proud distinction had for some time been seriously menaced by the seeming failure of Congress to realize that the class of men through whose valor and fidelity such honor had been achieved, could no longer be relied upon as a source from which recruits could be drawn to fill the gaps in the ranks of the crews, which were being rapidly depleted by the lapse of time and the incidents of perilous service, without the guarantee of a living compensation amidst constantly occurring fluctuations in wages and the cost of living - both ever increasing - and some assurance against prospective want and penury when they should become unfitted for duty through disease, injury, or the infirmities of advancing years. These deficiencies the Act fortunately supplies, and therefore removes all apprehension of threatening inability to keep the stations properly manned.

It is recognized by all the members of the Coast Guard who were formerly in the Life-Saving Service that this happy consummation could not have been attained except through your zealous and steadfast efforts, supported by the approval of the President, and I can assure you of their grateful appreciation.

For myself, after more than half a century spent in the public service, I would emphasize my deep satisfaction that the termination of my active career in the Life-Saving Service to which I have devoted the best years of a long life, cherishing it as the apple of my eye, is to be accompanied by the suppression of a critical danger which threatened

the very existence of the establishment, and by a rejuvenation of the corps which promises not only to preserve unimpaired its high reputation, but to enable it to win fresh laurels. I would also, my dear Mr. Secretary, especially add my heartiest thanks to you personally for the unqualified support and cordial consideration you have afforded me under all circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

  
General Superintendent.

Honorable Wm. G. McAdoo,

Secretary of the Treasury.