

Naval Station in the interests of the Naval Service, but the contractors will not regard any interest outside of that which is specified in their contract. Experience here at Key West has shown that contractors have deliberately trespassed upon the Naval Reservation, after they had been duly notified. The Commandant was informed that the contractors were dredging by the authority of the Secretary of War, and the contractor proposed to dredge at his convenience, regardless of the protest of the Commandant.

7. Admiral Forsythe told me yesterday that the Department had contemplated erecting a coal shed on Frankford Bank, for the Navy, and I believe that it would be most desirable to so arrange that the dredging of the material for the Army, for filling at Fort Taylor, would incidentally widen and deepen the channels and remove the obstructions in the same. It would be economical to provide for dredging the late Admiral Belknap's proposed basins for battleship anchorage, rather than the indiscriminate removal of Frankford Bank