

2-6-1847

Report : Petition of Col. Watson

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 6, 1847.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. RUSK made the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. No. 145.]

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Col. Joseph Watson, asking compensation for services rendered as secretary and storekeeper of the Indian department in the Territory of Michigan and the northwest, have had the same under consideration, and concur with and adopt the report made thereon at the last session of Congress by the Committee of Claims of this honorable body, herewith filed. They therefore, in accordance with said report, recommend the passage of the accompanying bill.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—APRIL 23, 1846.

Mr. PENNYBACKER made the following report :

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the "petition of Joseph Watson, praying compensation for his services as secretary and storekeeper to the Indian department in the northwest," have had the same under consideration, and, after a full and careful examination of the subject, are of opinion, for the reasons set forth in the report of the Committee of Claims of the 21th of January, 1832, herewith filed as part of this report, that the petitioner is entitled to relief. Under this conviction, the committee report the accompanying bill, and recommend the passage thereof.

JANUARY 24, 1832.

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Colonel Joseph Watson, asking compensation for services rendered as secretary and storekeeper of the Indian department, in the Territory of Michigan and the northwest, have had the claim under consideration, and submit to the Senate the following report :

That it appears that the petitioner performed the duties of secretary and storekeeper to the Indian department, in the Territory of Michigan and the

Maie & Heiss, print.

northwest, from the 1st of September, 1806, to the 16th of August, 1812, and that his accounts have remained unsettled in consequence of his papers falling into the hands of the Indians and British at the surrender of Detroit. Among the documents submitted to the committee are a copy of his commission certified from the records, and a letter from James Abbott, esquire, the postmaster at Detroit, under date of the 13th July, 1816, showing that early measures were adopted to regain possession of it. As to the services, this commission, the certificate from Governor Hull, dated the 31st December, 1810, and the affidavit of Reuben Attwater, esq., who acted as superintendent of Indian affairs for more than a year, clearly show their character and establish their performance.

They were fully recognised by the report from the office of Indian affairs, on the 2d May, 1828, and the present Secretary of War, who after the war succeeded to the duties of superintendent of Indian affairs within the Territory of Michigan, has stated, and by his letter of the 12th instant reiterates, that the office which the petitioner held "was essential to the public service—that the duties were ably and zealously performed;" that "it was impossible for the superintendent to discharge personally the various duties required of him by law; and in point of fact, I have always understood that a large portion of them was discharged by Colonel Watson." The petitioner alleges, and the committee have every reason for believing, that "previous to the late war, the duties of secretary of the Indian department were, from the greater extent of the superintendence, and the greater number of the Indians and their more active movements, more onerous and arduous than they have been since; that they have been lessened by the relaxation on the part of the British of the system of keeping up an excitement among the Indians, and by the facility afforded by "local presses for printing the proclamations, licenses, bonds, permissions, receipts for annuities, and orders for provisions, connected with the execution of the laws relative to trade and intercourse with the Indians." The committee coincide with the Secretary of War, that "services indispensable to the performance of duties prescribed by law" should be paid for; and as those of the petitioner were of that character, they report a bill for his relief.

JANUARY 31, 1832

The Committee of Claims to whom was referred the petition of Robert James Watson, asking compensation for services rendered as secretary and steward of the Indian department in the Territory of Michigan, and the petition, have had the claim under consideration, and submit in the following report:

That it appears that the petitioner performed the duties of secretary and steward in the Indian department, in the Territory of Michigan, and the