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Indian War -- Washington Territory. Memorial of the Legislature of Washington Territory, praying an appropriation to defray the expenses of the existing war.

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INDIAN WAR—WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY,

PRAYING

An appropriation to defray the expenses of the existing war.

MARCH 14, 1856.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

Memorial praying an appropriation to defray the expenses of the existing war.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Washington, respectfully represent: That previous to the month of October last, the Yakima tribe of Indians, residing east of the Cascade mountains, by frequent acts of hostility upon American settlers passing through the section of country inhabited by that tribe, provoked a war, which still unhappily exists; that the executive of Washington Territory, in consequence of these repeated outrages, proclaimed the existence of war, and made requisition upon the Territory for volunteers, which requisition was promptly met, and our citizens enrolled themselves into companies; that in consequence of the absence of the arms to which the Territory was entitled, the scarcity of government ammunition, and supplies of all kinds, those companies were forced to provide, in a great measure, their own munitions of war, their means of transportation, and other necessary supplies; that when the regular troops stationed among us for the defence of the Territory, and the accepted volunteers, were drawn off, by being marched into the Yakima country to prosecute said war, many of the Indians west of the mountains rose in hostility against the settlements, and made it imperatively necessary for the executive to call into requisition all the men capable of bearing arms, to organize volunteer corps for home defence, and to build block-houses for the safety of families; that the means of our citizens were profusely expended to garrison and pro-

vision these block-houses, while the outer settlements, being abandoned, were subjected to the incursions of the savages, and much valuable property destroyed; that our merchants have furnished supplies, trusting that the general government would assume the debt; our farmers have furnished their horses, stock, and grain, for the use of the service, and all classes of our citizens, to an extent most commendable and patriotic, have contributed their aid to the government, to carry on the war with vigor and effect; that the flower of our Territory is now embraced in the volunteer forces engaged in the war; that the men of all classes have abandoned lucrative employments, at the country wages, varying from three to seven dollars a day, to answer to the governor's proclamation, defend the honor of our flag, chastise the heathen murderers of innocent American citizens, and actually defend their firesides and families from the outrages incident to savage war.

These facts make it our solemn duty to urge upon your honorable bodies prompt and speedy action upon the subjects referred to in this memorial. The effects of the existing war are prostrating the energies of our Territory, and business of all kinds and every occupation of life are thereby materially affected. Men who had accumulated a competency, if not wealth, have invested their all to meet the exigencies of the existing state of affairs. The future settlement and growth of the Territory loudly call for action at once, to secure confidence, enable us to punish the savage foe, keep other tribes now friendly in subjection, and, by a vigorous prosecution of the war, early secure the blessings of peace.

Your memorialists, therefore, earnestly and respectfully urge upon your honorable bodies immediate relief, in the way of sufficient appropriations to meet the expenses heretofore incurred by the causes hereinbefore alluded to.

That, in addition to the foregoing, as a remuneration for service, each man, foot or mounted, shall be entitled to and shall receive a land warrant for one hundred and sixty acres of land, to be located on any of the public lands belonging to the United States; and that each volunteer soldier serving on foot receive for his services the sum of four dollars per day, and each mounted soldier the sum of five dollars per day.

Passed the House of Representatives December 17, 1855.

A. A. DENNY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Passed the Council January 9, 1856.

SETH CATLIN,

President of the Council.