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Anson Dart

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ANSON DART.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 763.]

JANUARY 24, 1857.

Mr. LEITER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of "Anson Dart, late superintendent of Indian affairs in Oregon," respectfully report:

That Mr. Dart was appointed such superintendent in the year A. D. 1850, and served in that capacity for the term of nearly three years; that during the period of his service he had under his superintendence the Indian affairs of all the country now included within the Territories of Oregon and Washington; that he was a faithful officer, and discharged his duties in a manner highly satisfactory to the government; and that during the whole of his superintendency peace and quiet were maintained amongst all the Indian tribes under his care, and also between them and their white neighbors; that at the time of his appointment the salary affixed to the office was twenty-five hundred dollars per annum; but he was assured by the Indian Bureau, and by the Committee of Indian Affairs of the Senate, that a bill, which was soon to be reported, establishing the office of superintendent of Indian affairs in California, should be made to include the superintendent of Indian affairs of Oregon; and that such provision had the sanction and approval of the Indian Bureau, but, by accident or oversight, the bill was not so reported as to provide for it, and the bill passed fixing the salary of the superintendent in California at four thousand dollars, without changing that of Oregon; since which time, and since the termination of the official services of Mr. Dart, it has been considered proper, and Congress has divided the territory formerly under his care, and there is now a separate superintendency for each of the Territories of Oregon and Washington.

The evidence before your committee is conclusive that Mr. Dart would not have accepted of this office had it not been for assurances, that were entirely satisfactory to him, that he should receive the same compensation for his services in Oregon that should be given to the same grade of office in California; but there are other and more weighty reasons, in the opinion of your committee, why the pay of

Mr. Dart should be made at least equal to that of the superintendent in California. He was a pioneer in that business on the Pacific, and there was but little known as to the cost of living in that region of country until after his arrival there; and it appearing to your committee, by the statements of Mr. Dart and the evidence in other cases from that region, taken by other parties, that establishing beyond a question the fact that the cost of living there was as great, if not greater, than it was in California during the time of Mr. Dart's service in Oregon.

The services of Mr. Dart having been rendered to the government in an almost unknown country, he should be fully paid, and not be permitted to be the sufferer, as he undoubtedly is, under the pay he has received for his service.

In ordinary cases, your committee would deem it impolitic to increase the salaries of officers subsequent to the expiration of their term; but your committee would respectfully suggest that the case of Mr. Dart should, under all the circumstances, be an exception to the general rule, for the foregoing reasons, and many others that could be given.

Your committee, therefore, report a bill for his relief.