

6-8-1860

On the Relief of A. Dart

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 8, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SEBASTIAN made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill H. R. 220.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom House bill No. 220, for the relief of Anson Dart, was recommitted, respectfully report that they have had the matter under consideration, and still concur in their former recommendation, that the bill pass without amendment.

They are of opinion that the delay in setting sail for Oregon after his appointment was, under the circumstances, not unreasonable; that in his administration of Indian affairs he was faithful, diligent, and economical; that his return to Washington, if not covered by his first instructions, which was in very general terms, was expressly sanctioned by the instructions of the department, to repair to Washington, which, although not actually received in Oregon, were on their way there when he took passage; that his coming to Washington was entirely upon the public business, to be present to give all the necessary information and advice in relation to the condition of Indian affairs, and in relation to the treaties negotiated by him with the Indian tribes.

It is too late now to inquire what would have been the result of the ratification of these treaties negotiated by him, for they were rejected by the Senate. It is but just to him to say, however, that he urged their ratification at the time, as a measure of sound public policy, and to prevent Indian hostilities.

They were rejected, and Indian hostilities ensued, which have cost many lives and several millions of dollars.

The committee will not assume to say that these hostilities have been the direct and natural result of the rejection of these treaties, but feel called upon to say that, in their opinion, Mr. Dart, in negotiating these treaties, and in coming to Washington, acted in good faith, and only with a view of promoting what he deemed to be a wise measure of public policy, and that if he erred in so doing it was an error of judgment and not of intention.

The committee therefore recommend the immediate passage of the bill, without amendment.