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Report : Claim of the First Minnesota Mounted Rangers

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 4, 1862.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HARRISON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 903.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 903) for the relief of the First Minnesota Mounted Rangers Volunteers, respectfully report :

That a communication was by their direction addressed to the Secretary of War asking for any facts bearing upon the relief asked in this bill, and for any suggestions in the premises. In response to that communication the committee have received from the Secretary of War the following communication :

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, April 24, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th of February last, inclosing a bill (S. 903) which provides for the payment of bounty to the enlisted men of the First Minnesota Rangers Volunteers, who served during the late rebellion, and requesting such information in regard to the matter as may be in the possession of the department, also inviting any suggestions which I may have to make in relation to the merits of said bill.

In response I beg to invite the attention of the Committee on Military Affairs to the inclosed report on the subject, dated the 20th instant, from the Adjutant-General.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,
Secretary of War.

Hon. BENJAMIN HARRISON,
Of Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate.

The letter from the Adjutant-General referred to is as follows :

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., April 20, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith, letter of the Hon. Benjamin Harrison, of Senate Committee on Military Affairs, inclosing a bill (S. 903) for the relief of the First Minnesota Mounted Rangers Volunteers, which bill proposes to allow certain bounty to the enlisted men of that organization, and to report the following :

August 25, 1862, the governor of Minnesota was authorized by the Secretary of War to raise a regiment of mounted infantry to serve for a term of three months, and October 3, 1862, the governor was informed by telegram from the War Department that "the mounted infantry ordered August 25 may be mustered in for one year."

October 15, 1862, the governor of Minnesota, by letter of that date to the Secretary of War, stated that, "The Indian war having assumed larger proportions than at first anticipated, it was deemed advisable by General Pope and myself to change the term to twelve months, which has been done; and the men are being mustered in for that time." And by telegram of November 3d, 1862, from this office the governor was in-

formed that "The three months' term of the mounted infantry is changed to twelve, as requested in your letter October 15, 1862."

The regiment was organized from October 9 to December 30, 1862, to serve one year; was designated the "First Minnesota Mounted Rangers;" served against the Indians on the frontier of Minnesota, and was mustered out of service by companies at different dates, from October 20 to December 7, 1863.

Volunteers enlisting for one year's service were not entitled to bounty prior to the act of July 4, 1864.

There is nothing of record in the department which would sustain the action proposed by this bill, and to take such action would be a discrimination in favor of this regiment, as against the same class of volunteers raised in other States prior to July 4, 1864.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

The committee are of opinion that the bill ought not to pass, and they report thereon adversely, and recommend its indefinite postponement.