

4-1-1884

## Report : Petition of Idaho.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 1, 1884.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1304.]

*The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 1304) to authorize the Secretary of War to ascertain the expenses incurred by the territorial authorities and the people of Idaho in the suppression of Indian hostilities in the years 1877 and 1878, known as the Bannock and Nez Percé outbreaks, respectfully submits the following report:*

In reply to a communication in respect to this bill, the Secretary of War, under date 24th instant, replies as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington City, March 24, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by your reference, of Senate bill 1304, Forty-eighth Congress, first session, a bill "to authorize the Secretary of War to ascertain the expenses incurred by the territorial authorities and the people of the Territory of Idaho in the suppression of Indian hostilities in the years 1877 and 1878, known as the Bannock and Nez Percé outbreaks."

In reply to your request for such information as will enable the Committee on Military Affairs to report as to the necessity, if any, for the legislation contemplated by the enactment of the bill in question, I beg to invite the attention of the committee to the remarks of the General of the Army, contained in his indorsements dated respectively March 13 and 19, 1878, in connection with House bill 2904, Forty-fifth Congress, second session (copies herewith), transmitted to the House of Representatives by Department letter dated March 21, 1878, and to the report of the Adjutant-General of the Army dated January 29, 1879, on House bill 6096, Forty-fifth Congress, third session (copies also inclosed herewith), transmitted to the House of Representatives by Department letter dated January 29, 1879.

From a comparison it will be seen that the subject-matter of the three bills above referred to, so far as they relate to Idaho Territory, is nearly the same.

The bill (S. 1304) is returned herewith.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,  
Secretary of War.

Hon. S. B. MAXEY,  
Of Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate.

The papers referred to in the Secretary's communication, and which for convenience are marked A, B, C, are as follows:

A.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, March 13, 1878.

Respectfully submitted to the honorable Secretary of War. Such a Board will consume a year to make a practical investigation and report in that remote region.

## 2 EXPENSES INCURRED IN SUPPRESSING INDIAN HOSTILITIES.

For the Board I suggest —

■ A citizen preferably of Oregon or Washington Territory.

Capt. Henry W. James, Quartermaster's Department, now at Fort Ellis, Mont.

Capt. William H. Winters, First United States Cavalry.

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*General.*

(Indorsed:) Returned by the Secretary of War March 18, 1878, to the General of the Army, for expression of opinion upon the propriety of the adoption of the act.

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### B.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Washington, D. C., March 19, 1878.*

Respectfully returned to the honorable Secretary of War, recommending that he favor the passage of House bill No. 2904, herewith.

The sooner this investigation is made the better for the interests of the United States, as experience demonstrates that claims of this nature grow with time and delay.

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*General.*

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### C.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, January 29, 1879.*

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith the communication of January 25, 1879, from Hon. John H. Evins, of the House Committee on Military Affairs, asking the views of the Secretary of War upon the adoption of a bill (H. R. 6096) "Creating a commission to examine and report the expenses of the State of Oregon and the Territories of Idaho and Washington, or the citizens thereof, necessarily incurred in the suppression of Indian hostilities in the year 1878"; referred to this office for special report, and to inclose, as indicating the views of the Department in a similar case, copy of the report of the General of the Army of March 19, 1878, upon communication from Hon. A. A. Clark, of the House Military Committee, covering House bill 2904, authorizing a commission to investigate the expenses incurred by the Territory of Idaho and the people thereof in the Nez Percé campaign of 1877, together with copy of War Department letter March 21, 1878, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives recommending the passage of said bill.

The present bill relates to the hostilities of the Bannock and other Indians in 1878; little, if any, information concerning the expenses incurred by the State and Territories named therein has been received here. It is evident that heavy claims will be presented against the United States, and it is believed that a commission of officers would carefully and faithfully examine and report upon them.

Separate report will be made at an early date upon House bill 6097, also inclosed by Hon. J. H. Evins, being a bill making appropriations for military roads in the Territory of Idaho.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Adjutant-General.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

The present bill relates only to the Territory of Idaho, the claims of Oregon and Washington Territory having been provided for in the act approved June 27, 1882. (U. S. Stat. at Large, vol. 22, pages 110 and 111.)

The plan of ascertainment of the claims as proposed in the bill is deemed reasonable, and meets the approval of the War Department. The sooner such claims are definitely ascertained and disposed of the better.

The committee recommends the passage of said bill amended as shown by the bill accompanying this report.