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Report : Petition of Capt. Northup.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 1, 1884.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT :

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition, &c., of Capt. Anson Northup, have duly considered the same, and submit the following report :

From the records of Congress it appears that in the first session of the Forty-third Congress, a petition was presented for Capt. Anson Northup, for a grant of 640 acres of land as compensation for long, perilous, and valuable services, which was referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and no action had.

The same petition was presented in the first session of the Forty-fourth Congress, and referred to the same committee, and no action had.

In the second session of the Forty-sixth Congress the petition now before your committee was presented and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and no action was taken.

The same was presented in the Forty-seventh Congress and referred to the same committee, and no action was taken. It is now again before your committee for action.

The petition is signed by a large number of leading citizens of the State of Minnesota, and sets forth the services of Capt. Anson Northup as one of the pioneer settlers of the State of Minnesota, and as a wagon-master in the Army, and as a captain under commission of Governor Ramsey in the war with the Sioux Indians in 1862.

The saving of Fort Ridgely and its garrison from massacre by the Sioux Indians in 1862 is attributed almost wholly to Capt. Anson Northup in this report. Petitioners assert that Captain Northup has never received a cent of pay or compensation of any kind; and the petitioners further represent that in 1865 Captain Northup performed valuable services for the Government as a guide for General Sully in his expedition up the Missouri River, and received no pay. And they represent that Captain Northup expended over \$200 in paying the necessary expenses of his company in the march to Fort Ridgely, for which he has never been paid. And they represent that "justice requires that this old and patriotic servant of the Government should receive such compensation for said unpaid public services as in your judgment shall seem meet and just."

The petition is indorsed by a large number of gentlemen who com-

mend Captain Northup in very high terms, and is verified by an affidavit of Captain Northup, in which affidavit he says :

And this deponent paid out for such expenses nearly \$300—he cannot state the exact amount, but it was all he had, and is near the amount above stated—and he has never been paid or reimbursed in any manner for such expenditure. This deponent is now over sixty-three years old, has resided in what is now Minnesota since 1838 continually, except the time he has been absent in his service in the Union Army. He has a wife and six children—two of the children are minors. The reason why he did not make this claim at the time the services were rendered and the expenses incurred was because he did not then need it or care about it; but now he needs it for the support of himself and family, and feels that his claim is just.

No vouchers or proofs of any kind were filed.

In the Forty-seventh Congress the papers were referred by Senator Sewell to the Secretary of War for information and report, and the following letters from the Secretary of War and the Adjutant-General were received, which give all the information known in the War Department of any service rendered by Captain Northup as wagon-master :

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, June 19, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 3d ultimo, referring the petition of certain citizens of Minnesota praying that Mr. Amos Northrup may be compensated for services rendered as a wagon-master during the war, and also for services rendered in the suppression of Indian hostilities in Minnesota in 1862.

In response to your request for such information in regard to the matter as the records of the Department may afford, I beg to invite your attention to the inclosed report on the subject, dated the 16th instant, from the Adjutant-General.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT T. LINCOLN.
Secretary of War.

Hon. W. J. SEWELL,
Of Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., June 16, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith letter of the Hon. W. J. Sewell, of the Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate, referring a petition of Mr. Anson Northrup for such information as may be of record in the Department relative thereto, and to report as follows :

The records of this office have been carefully examined, and no information bearing on any of the matters referred to in the said petition has been found, except an order appointing Mr. Northrup wagon-master of Gorman's brigade, in March, 1862, copy of which is hereunto appended.

The Quartermaster-General of the Army has reported that the records of his office furnish no information relative to the services of Anson Northrup as wagon-master in 1861 and 1862.

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

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

[Special orders No. 81.]

HEADQUARTERS GORMAN'S BRIGADE,
Alexandria, Va., March 28, 1862.

[Extract.]

2. Mr. Anson Northrup, of Minnesota, is hereby appointed wagon-master of this brigade, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

By order of Brigadier-General Gorman.

DANIEL HEBARD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Money was duly appropriated for the payment of such services, and was in the hands of the proper officers, and if Capt. Anson Northup was not then paid for such services, it was his own fault, and no reason is seen why he might not yet apply to the proper officer and receive any sum that may legally be due him.

Your committee referred the petition to the Secretary of the Treasury for examination and report, and received from the Secretary the following letter:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *March 26, 1864.*

SIR: In reply to your communication of the 7th instant, inclosing a petition of Anson Northup, of Minnesota, for compensation for services alleged to have been performed for the Government, with a request for information thereon, I have the honor to inform you that the Third Auditor reports that the records of his office show Capt. Anson J. Northup to have been paid by the State of Minnesota \$27.50, April 7, 1863, for services with his company of cavalry from August 21 to 31, 1862, in the Sioux Indian war.

He claimed \$45.66 for services of himself and \$5.50 for the use of his horse, and his voucher was approved by Colonel McPhail, but the State allowed him \$27.50, which was paid to his attorney, D. M. Demmon, who receipted the voucher, No. 2912, Ab. A., 1st inst., Sioux war claim of Minnesota.

The State of Minnesota has been reimbursed the amount paid by her to Captain Northup by the United States.

The petition referred to in the foregoing is returned herewith as requested.

Very respectfully,

CHAS. J. FOLGER,
Secretary.

Hon. M. COCKRELL,

Subcommittee of Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate.

From this letter it will be seen that Capt. Anson Northup presented to the State of Minnesota his claim for \$45.66, for services of himself, and \$5.50 for the use of his horse, from August 21 to 31, 1862, in the Sioux Indian war, and that the State authorities reduced the claim to \$27.50, and then paid the same to his attorney, and the State of Minnesota has been reimbursed the sum so paid.

Thus it appears that Capt. Anson Northup, in 1863, long after the performance of the service, and the expenditure of the money in the Sioux Indian war, presented his claim to his own State of Minnesota for payment, and only claimed \$45.66, and was paid.

If he was entitled to any greater sum for services or for expenditures he then knew the fact as well as subsequently, and should have presented his claim to the State, which had the means and the facilities for examining and adjusting it justly and equitably. If he did not do so it was no fault of the General Government, which appropriated many millions of dollars to reimburse the various States of the Union for expenses incurred in raising volunteers during the late rebellion.

The States were required to adjust these claims of their own citizens, and present them to the United States for reimbursements.

The State of Minnesota presented to the United States the following claims: \$276.75 to the Second Auditor, which was paid; \$443,692.71, to the Third Auditor, of which \$430,378.26 was paid to said State by warrant, and \$5,293.47 by property purchased, making a total paid to said State of \$435,671.73, and leaving a balance of \$8,020.98 of claims on suspended accounts.

These figures are taken from a report by the Treasury Department on January 12, 1872. Since that date Minnesota has doubtless adjusted the entire claim. It would be an impossible task for Congress to undertake to consider, adjust, and act upon the individual claims of the citizens of the various States of the Union for services alleged to have been performed for their respective States or for the General Government.

Ample provision has been made for the settlement and adjustment of all such claims. If Capt. Anson Northup was not paid for his service as wagon-master it is his own fault, and the proper Department would doubtless consider his case yet. As to the services for the State he presented his claim soon after the services were performed and the State adjusted and paid it.

Your committee do not feel authorized to revise, or attempt to revise, or correct this adjustment at this late day, and your committee, therefore, report the bill back to the Senate, and recommend that the bill be indefinitely postponed.