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Ordinance account of Kansas.

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ORDNANCE ACCOUNT OF KANSAS.

MAY 5, 1886.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT :

[To accompany bill H. R. 8592.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 6011) to authorize the Secretary of War to credit the State of Kansas with certain sums for ordnance and ordnance stores issued to said State, and for other purposes, submits the following report :

The committee has applied to the Secretary of War for information in regard to the subject-matter of said bill, and has received the following report, which the committee makes a part of this report :

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, April 16, 1886.

SIR : In returning herewith House bill 6011 "to authorize the Secretary of War to credit the State of Kansas with certain sums for ordnance and ordnance stores issued to said State, and for other purposes," referred by you for information, I have the honor to invite attention to the inclosed report of the 14th instant from the Chief of Ordnance.

The only investigation that I have made touching the credit of the State of Kansas of charges on account of ordnance stores was made at the time chapter 303 of the acts of session 1 of the Forty-fourth Congress was under consideration by this Department. I was then of opinion it was intended by that act to credit Kansas with the full sum charged on the books of the Ordnance Department against the Territory of Kansas. Owing to the limited terms of the preamble and the general terms of the enacting clause the matter was not free from doubt. The Attorney-General, however, decided that the amount named in the preamble, viz, \$11,425, was the only amount that could be credited to Kansas under the act. To the extent of \$24,448.50, I should recommend the passage of a bill crediting the State of Kansas.

Further than that, and in regard to the charge made to Thomas Osborn, governor of Kansas, I cannot make any favorable recommendation, for I have no means of information on the subject at my command in this Department, but I concur in the views expressed by the Chief of Ordnance that the bill should be amended so as to credit the State of Kansas only with the sum of \$24,448.50, thus relieving the State from the charges incurred in protecting its frontier.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. C. ENDICOTT,
Secretary of War.

Hon. E. S. BRAGG,
Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., April 14, 1886.

SIR : I have the honor to return letter of the 10th instant from Hon. E. S. Bragg, chairman House Committee on Military Affairs, inclosing H. R. 6011, being "a bill

to authorize the Secretary of War to credit the State of Kansas with certain sums for ordnance and ordnance stores issued to said State, and for other purposes," and asking for information upon the relief asked.

The first paragraph of the preamble is in error in stating that the State of Kansas is charged on our books with a total of \$64,502.95 for ordnance and ordnance stores issued to Kansas and to Governor Osborn during the years 1875 to 1879, inclusive. Our books show issues of only \$10,971.34 during that period, and it is not known whether this expenditure was "for the sole purpose of aiding the General Government in the protection of the borders of said State against Indian invasions and depredations."

There is no charge against Governor Osborn. The records of this office show, however, that in 1868, on the recommendation of General Sherman, and for the protection of the Kansas frontier, there were issued five hundred Spencer carbines, &c.—\$15,198.50. In 1874, on information from the Senators from Kansas that the Indians are attacking the settlers, "having killed several citizens, and that a general massacre is imminent," and asking for assistance, there were issued five hundred Sharp's carbines, &c.—\$9,250; making a total of \$24,448.50.

I have the honor to recommend that the inclosed bill be amended by striking out all after the title of the bill, and substituting as follows:

"*Be it enacted, &c.*, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, directed to cause the State of Kansas to be credited on its ordnance account with the sum of \$24,448.50 for ordnance and ordnance stores, drawn by the State of Kansas, to aid the General Government in the protection of said State against Indian invasions and depredations."

As so amended I recommend the passage of the bill.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. V. BENÉT,
Brig. Gen., Chief of Ordnance.

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

The committee concurs in the recommendation of the Secretary of War and Chief of Ordnance, and reports back the substitute bill as formulated by General Benét, Chief of Ordnance, and recommends that said substitute do pass and that said bill, H. R. 6011, do lie on the table.