

5-25-1886

Credit for Ordnance Stores Issued to Dakota

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 25, 1886.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 2249.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred Senate bill 2249, beg leave to present the following report:

The committee desire to submit herewith and make a part of their report the following communications from the Secretary of War and the Chief of Ordnance:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, May 22, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, inclosing for my views thereon Senate bill 2249, Forty-ninth Congress, first session, to authorize the Territory of Dakota to be credited with the sum of \$33,625 for ordnance and ordnance stores, and asking under what circumstances the stores referred to were issued to that Territory.

In reply I beg to inclose herewith a report of the 19th instant, from the Chief of Ordnance, from which it appears that the books of his office show a charge of only \$27,650 against Dakota Territory for arms and ammunition issued to it for defense against hostile Indians under the act of April 7, 1866, which also provided that the value of the stores should be charged against Dakota due or to become due to the Territory under the law for arming the militia.

I concur in the recommendations of the Chief of Ordnance, that Dakota be relieved from the charge of \$27,650, being the value of the stores issued to it under the act of April 7, 1866, and that the bill be so amended.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. V. BENÉT,

Brigadier-General, Chief of Ordnance, and Acting Secretary of War.

Hon. WILLIAM J. SEWELL,
Of Senate Committee on Military Affairs, U. S. Senate.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., May 19, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to return letter of the Hon. W. J. Sewell, of the Committee on Military Affairs, of the 14th instant, inclosing Senate bill 2249 for "such facts and data in the case as the Department may have on file," &c., and to report:

The books of this office show a charge of only \$27,650 against Dakota for one thousand arms and ammunition issued to that Territory for defense against hostile Indians, under the act of April 7, 1866, which also provided that the value of the stores should be charged against the quota due or to become due to the Territory under the law for arming the militia.

In 1872 Congress by the act of May 21, 1872, authorized the issue of one thousand arms with ammunition to the Territory of Montana, for distribution among the settlers for defense against Indian raids, but did not in this case direct that their value should be charged against the Territory's quota on the books of this office.

As the issues made to Dakota and Montana under the above acts of Congress were for similar purposes, their defense against hostile Indians, both Territories should in justice be placed on the same footing. As the issue to Montana was without charge, I recommend that Dakota be relieved from the charge of \$27,650, being the value of the stores issued to it under the act of April 7, 1866.

There is no charge on the books of this office against the then governor of the Territory of Dakota.

I respectfully recommend that Senate bill 2249 be so amended, and that it become a law.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. V. BENÉT,
Brigadier-General, Chief of Ordnance.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

The issue of these ordnance stores to the Territory of Dakota, being for the defense of its citizens against the hostile Indians and for the general good of the country, the committee are of the opinion that they should not have been so charged to the Territory, but such expense should rather have been borne by the General Government. The committee find there are several precedents for this course, and concurring in the conclusions reached by the Secretary of War and Chief of Ordnance, recommend the passage of the bill with the following amendments, to wit: In lines 3 and 4, of the first preamble, strike out the words "thirty-eight thousand six hundred and twenty-five," and insert in lieu thereof the words "twenty-seven thousand six hundred and fifty." In lines 5 and 6 of the bill, strike out the words "thirty-eight thousand six hundred and twenty-five," and in lieu thereof insert the words "twenty-seven thousand six hundred and fifty."