

7-6-1886

Report : Claim of Certain Soldiers

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 6, 1886.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1294.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1294) providing for the auditing and payment of claims of soldiers who served in the several Indian wars in Florida, have considered the same, and in consequence of the accompanying communication from the Secretary of War they report the bill back adversely, and recommend its indefinite postponement.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, June 2, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the communication of the 25th ultimo from the Committee on Military Affairs, by its clerk, requesting the views of the Department upon Senate bill No. 1294, Forty-ninth Congress, first session, which provides for the auditing and payment of claims of soldiers who served in the several Indian wars in Florida.

In reply, I beg to state that this bill is identical with Senate bill No. 467, Forty-ninth Congress, first session, submitted to the Department for its views on the 24th of February last, and to invite your attention to the letter to you of March 18 last, in response, which transmits a copy of a letter to Hon. Wade Hampton of May 6, 1884, upon a former similar bill. This letter, a copy of which is herewith inclosed, contains all the information possessed by the Department upon the subject.

The bill inclosed in your letter is herewith returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. C. ENDICOTT,
Secretary of War.

Hon. JOHN A. LOGAN,
Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, May 6, 1884.

SIR: In answer to your request of the 1st ultimo for information concerning Senate bill No. 822, for the audit and payment of claims of soldiers who served in the several Indian wars in Florida, I have to inform you that the Second Auditor of the Treasury reports as follows:

"The first section of the bill adds nothing to the power of the accounting officers not already possessed. It has been, and now is, the practice of this office to examine and pass upon the claims of soldiers who served in the several Indian wars in Florida whenever presented, and to certify to the Second Comptroller any balance found to be due them. There is, however, no appropriation now available for the payment of claims of this character," and the bill makes no provision for payment for services.

Section 2 provides for the audit and payment of claims of soldiers who served in said wars in Florida for horses furnished by them and lost in the service, and would, if enacted into law, be a discrimination in favor of such soldiers who have had with

all others the benefit of the act of March 3, 1849 (section 3482 of the Revised Statutes), up to January 9, 1864, when such claims were barred by the act of January 9, 1863 (22 Stats., p. 401).

In regard to section 3, it is suggested that the act of June 27, 1862 (22 Stats., 111), for the settlement of claims of certain States and Territories for expenses in suppressing Indian hostilities, provides only for the reimbursement of such expenditures made by the State, and even if it provided for payments to the States of moneys due other parties, it is not perceived how the General Government could exercise any control over funds after they have passed into the treasury of the State.

Very respectfully,

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,
Secretary of War.

Hon. WADE HAMPTON,
Senate.