

3-17-1886

Report : Claim of Colorado

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 17, 1886.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 885.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 885) to relieve the State of Colorado from charges on account of ordnance stores furnished to the State and Territory, submit the following report:

The committee append and make a part of their report the following communications from the Secretary of War and the Chief of Ordnance:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, March 8, 1886.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 9th ultimo requesting for the Committee on Military Affairs information upon Senate bill 885, Forty-ninth Congress, first session, providing for the relief of the State of Colorado from charges on account of ordnance stores furnished to the State and Territory, I have the honor to inclose herewith a report of the 4th instant from the Chief of Ordnance upon the subject, who states that he knows of no reason why Colorado should be credited with the amounts now charged against the State for arms and ordnance stores issued to the State and Territory, but cites reasons why two of the amounts, aggregating \$50,150, should be credited to the State, and recommends that certainly one of these amounts, \$33,891, be so credited.

I concur in the views of the Chief of Ordnance.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. C. ENDICOTT,
Secretary of War.

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

ORDNANCE OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., March 4, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to return Senator Sewell's letter of the 9th February from the Military Committee, inclosing S. 885, "To relieve the State of Colorado from charges on account of ordnance stores furnished to the State and Territory," and to report:

I know of no reason why Colorado should be credited on our books with the amounts now charged—all the amounts, I presume, are intended—against it for arms and ordnance stores issued to the State and Territory, but there are reasons why one or more of the charges should be so credited.

The governor of Colorado, on September 22, 1868, writes to the Secretary of War, asking for a supply of arms, "in view of the fact that for several weeks past large numbers of hostile Indians have been and are still waging a very destructive war upon nearly all the frontier settlements of this Territory," &c.

This letter was forwarded by General Sherman, "Approved; these arms and cartridges to be charged to the Territory," and was approved by the Secretary of War. On this 500 Spencer rifles and 500 Spencer carbines and accouterments and 50,000 cartridges of each kind were issued. This issue amounted to \$33,891.

On October 7, 1879, the Secretary of War, then at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., telegraphed to the commanding officer of Rock Island Arsenal as follows:

"You will direct the officer in command of Cheyenne Depot to furnish to the governor of Colorado 1,000 stands of arms and 50,000 rounds of ammunition for same, to be charged to his State upon her quota."

No reasons were given, nor are they known, for the issue—presumably an emergency on account of Indian disturbances. The issue amounted to \$16,259.

These two items make a total of \$50,150, which may be credited to the State; certainly the first item of \$33,891 ought to be so credited, and I so recommend.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

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

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

The committee are of the opinion that the State of Colorado should not be held responsible for the issue of arms by the Government to the Territory of Colorado, that Territory at the time such arms were issued being the scene of Indian wars, the expense of which, it seems proper to the committee, should be borne by the General Government.

The committee therefore recommend the passage of the bill relieving the State of Colorado from the amount issued to the said Territory of Colorado, namely, \$33,891, as recommended by the honorable Secretary of War.

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