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Arms and ordnance stores for South Dakota.

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ARMS AND ORDNANCE STORES FOR SOUTH DAKOTA.

DECEMBER 6, 1890.—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 H. Res. 236.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H. Res. 236) to authorize the Secretary of War to loan 1,000 stand of arms to the State of South Dakota, have had the same under consideration and have amended it so as to be applicable to North Dakota, Wyoming, and Nebraska, and as so amended report it back, with the recommendation that it do pass.

The following letter of the Secretary of War shows the emergency which requires the enactment of this legislation:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 2, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to submit for your information and the consideration of your committee the following facts, showing the necessity for the passage of the joint resolution authorizing the issue of certain caliber .50 rifles and ammunition for the same to the State of South Dakota, in order to enable the authorities of that State to assist the United States in the protection of life and property against Indian depredations. A telegram of November 23, 1890, from General Ruger, commanding the Department of Dakota, stated that the governor was anxious to have 25,000 rounds of caliber .50 ammunition sent at once to Watertown, S. Dak., and a dispatch of the same date from the governor himself stated that the ammunition was desired to send to exposed points, so as to give a feeling of security to the people. The arms for which this ammunition was needed were caliber .50 rifles, issued under authority of the joint resolution approved July 3, 1876 (19 Statutes, 214), joint resolution approved March 3, 1877, (19 Statutes, 410), and the amendatory act approved May 16, 1878 (20 Statutes, 61), and in order that they might be rendered useful, I ordered the ammunition to be sent as requested, and so notified Governor Mellette by telegram on November 24.

Under date of November 25, Governor Mellette telegraphed, "Indian excitement unabated, although no apparent danger. Settlers will leave unless quieted and protected. Request 1,000 guns and ammunition to be sent to me at Huron, S. Dak."

I ordered an issue of the arms and ammunition requested, considering it a case of emergency. The arms in question are serviceable, but have been superseded by arms of another caliber, and can be spared.

Respectfully,

REDFIELD PROCTOR,
Secretary of War.

Hon. B. M. CUTCHEON,
Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives.