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Fort Walla Walla Military Reservation

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 4, 1892.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 214.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 214) entitled a bill "making appropriation for the improvement of the military reservation known as Fort Walla Walla, in the State of Washington," have had the same under consideration and report it back favorably and recommend its passage.

This bill passed the Senate during the first session of the Fifty-first Congress, having been reported from Military Affairs, and your committee adopt the report made upon the bill at that time, as follows:

Fort Walla Walla was established in May, 1859, because it was a central point from which the Government could operate against the Indians, the post being now garrisoned by cavalry as a menace to the Indians on the Umatilla and the Warm Springs reservations, in the State of Oregon, and those on the Yakima, Nez Percé, Cœur d'Alene, Colville, and Moses reservations in Idaho and Washington. Lines of railway connect the post with these reservations and other points, so that it would be the work of but a few hours for the military authorities to place troops at threatened places.

It is an economical strategic point, and at this time, when the sections which it covers are so rapidly filling up, it is important that the post be maintained to the point of efficiency against possible raids, outbreaks, or incursions. The Walla Walla Reservation embraces 619 acres, and adjoins the city of Walla Walla, and is well watered, and much of its area susceptible of a high state of cultivation.

The garrison quarters are constructed of wood, and only a few hundred dollars have ever been expended on the improvement of their grounds by the Government.

Your committee is of the opinion that it is to the best interests of the troops, the Government, and sections which the post is maintained to protect, that the small sum asked for be appropriated.

The following communications on the subject reflect the views of the Secretary of War and the Quartermaster-General of the Army on the bill under consideration:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., February 25, 1890.

SIR: I return herewith Senate bill 2455, "making appropriation for the improvement of the military reservation known as Fort Walla Walla, in the State of Washington," which has been referred to this Department, and invite your attention to the report of the Quartermaster-General, of the 15th instant, indorsed thereon. The improvement is desirable if it does not interfere with the appropriations that are necessities.

Very respectfully,

REDFIELD PROCTOR,
Secretary of War.

Hon. J. R. HAWLEY,
Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, U. S. Senate.

Since the above report was made the following letter has been received from the War Department, showing that the condition is unchanged and the necessity is as imperative:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 29, 1892.

SIR: In response to your letter of the 22d instant, asking the support of this Department in the matter of making an appropriation for the improvement of the military reservation of Fort Walla Walla, as proposed by Senate bill 214, Fifty-second Congress, first session, I have the honor to advise you that the Quartermaster-General remarks that the sum of \$20,000, proposed to be appropriated by the bill, can be expended to advantage in the improvement of Fort Walla Walla, and he recommends the passage of the same.

In this connection it may be added that no call for a report on the bill has yet been received at the Department from the Senate Committee on Military Affairs.

Very respectfully,

L. A. GRANT,
Assistant Secretary of War.

Hon. JOHN B. ALLEN,
United States Senate.