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C. J. Baronett

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 13, 1895.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WHITE, from the Committee on Territories, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 957.]

The Committee on Territories, to whom was referred the bill (S. 957) for the relief of C. J. Baronett, of Gardiner, Mont., report the same with the recommendation that it do pass.

The committee has carefully examined the subject and herewith submits a report of Capt. George S. Anderson to the Secretary of the Interior and also reports of the Secretary of the Interior made to the chairman of this committee and to the chairman of the Committee on Claims of the House of Representatives, which documents fully justify the favorable recommendation of the bill.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK,
Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyo., October 27, 1893.

SIR: I return you herewith the application of Mr. C. J. Baronett, through his counsel, Mr. E. M. Dawson, for compensation for improvements made by him within the park prior to its declaration in 1872. On May 1, 1891, I made a report in detail on these improvements, and I presume the report is on file in your office. Since that time I have become more familiar with Mr. Baronett's improvements, and I realize that my estimate was too small. His first bridge was burned by the Nez Perces in 1877. The present one is on the same site and on the same pier and abutments. I made an examination of it about three weeks ago, and I conclude that at the time the first one was built it must have cost \$2,500, or even more. The house, corral, and other buildings, and the work on the approaches must have cost him nearly as much more.

It is a shame that a toll bridge should be allowed to remain within the park, and surely Mr. Baronett's claim should be extinguished, and he be required to vacate the premises. I recommend that the \$5,000 asked for be allowed him, but in view of the very limited appropriations for road work in the park, I suggest that this be made a separate item in the bill, or the subject of a special act, as in Mr. McCartney's case. At the present time Mr. Baronett's bridge is in a very dilapidated condition, and I doubt if it withstands the high water of next spring. Should it go down he will not be able to replace it, and travel by the Cook City road will be cut off for months.

Yours, very respectfully,

GEO. S. ANDERSON,

Captain, Sixth Cavalry, Acting Superintendent Yellowstone National Park.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 29, 1894.

SIR: I am in receipt, by your reference of the 18th instant, of Senate bill 957, "For the relief of C. J. Baronett, of Gardiner, Mont.," Fifty-third Congress, first session, with a request for a report thereon.

In response thereto I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter addressed, under date of the 22d instant, to the chairman of the House Committee on Claims, expressing the views of the Department as to the merits of H. R. 4195, which is similar in its provisions to the bill accompanying your reference hereinbefore referred to.

Very respectfully,

HOKE SMITH, *Secretary.*

HON. CHARLES J. FAULKNER,
Chairman Committee on Territories, United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 22, 1894.

SIR: Your letter of the 16th instant has been received, inclosing a copy of H. R. 4195 "For the relief of C. J. Baronett, of Gardiner, Mont.," with request for such information in regard thereto as the Department may be able to afford.

In response thereto I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the petition presented to the Department September 25, 1893, by Baronett's attorney, and a report thereon made by the acting superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park, to whom the matter was referred, in which he recommends that the relief prayed for by Mr. Baronett be granted, together with a report made by the Department under date of February 27, 1892 (Senate Ex. Doc. No. 847, Fifty-second Congress, first session), in response to Senate resolution of January 15, 1891, relative to the claim of Mr. Baronett and other settlers in the park therein referred to, as well as a copy of the report of Dan C. Kingman, first lieutenant of engineers, in charge of construction of roads and bridges in the park to the Secretary of the Interior, through the Secretary of War, dated December 18, 1893, recommending among other things that an appropriation of \$5,000 be made by Congress for the purchase of the bridge constructed by Mr. Baronett in the Yellowstone Park, and have to state that I am not aware of any reason why this bill should not become a law.

In this connection it is proper to add that in the annual report of Secretary Lamar for the year 1887 reference is made to the toll bridge constructed by Mr. Baronett and its purchase recommended, and in my annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, there will be found on page 64 a specific recommendation that relief such as is sought by Mr. Baronett through the bill herein referred to be accorded him.

Copies of the annual reports above mentioned are herewith transmitted.

Very respectfully,

HOKE SMITH, *Secretary.*

HON. BENJAMIN H. BUNN,
Chairman Committee on Claims, House of Representatives.