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Wilkes County, Georgia -- Advances -- Indian war.

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WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA—ADVANCES—INDIAN WAR.

MARCH 3, 1837.

Read, and laid upon the table.

MR. E. WHITTLESEY, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to which was referred the claim for repayment of money advanced by the corporation of Washington and other citizens of Wilkes county, Georgia, to certain volunteers engaged to aid in the suppression of Indian hostilities at the south, report:

That among the papers is a subscription addressed "to the patriot and philanthropist," and is as follows, to wit:

"A number of men having united with the volunteer cavalry corps which is making up, who are unable to furnish them arms, with horses and accoutrements: this is, therefore, directed to the liberality of those who cannot unite in this association, and who feel an interest in behalf of their suffering fellow-citizens of Florida.—February 22, 1836."

Six hundred and forty-nine dollars were subscribed for the purposes mentioned in the subscription. The committee have been furnished with a copy of the proceedings of the citizens of Washington, on the 1st of March, 1836, relative to the settlement of the accounts of commissioners appointed to disburse the money contributed. It appears that the money raised, by the account of money disbursed, was \$1,198. It appears by said account, that the money was disbursed in the purchase of horses, saddles, bridles, blankets, and expenses in marching troops.

There is another paper, signed by Stephen A. Johnston, on behalf of the donors, addressed to S. Andrews, and others, a committee, by which it appears that, at another place, (but where, it is not stated,) there were subscribed, for the benefit of the Florida volunteers, \$408 50.

There is no evidence that the property purchased was put into the military service of the United States. It is remarked, in the paper last mentioned, "that the donors did not anticipate a return of the money." If corporations, or persons, advance money for the benefit of the United States, and do not pay it into the hands of known and recognised disbursing officers or agents, they should show, before such money is repaid, that it has been expended for the public service. If this rule is not adhered to, it is in vain that Congress prescribe laws, fixing the compensation to be paid for services, or the clothing or rations to be allowed to the United States troops, or to the militia.

If such corporations or persons pay money into the hands of an officer, or to any person, not an agent or disbursing officer of the United States, the United States have no control over such officer, or person, to call him to an account. If the money is paid to the militia, or volunteers, or if articles of clothing are delivered to them, and not deducted from their pay, the United States will be obliged to pay the money twice, if they are to pay it to the corporations, or persons who contribute it. No deduction can be made from the pay of such militia and volunteers, unless proper vouchers are taken, and the proper officers of the United States are notified of it.

Congress passed a law at the last session, on the 28th of May, 1836, to pay to the people in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, for all advances and expenditures made in prosecuting the defence against Indian hostilities. The claimants should first endeavor to settle their claims at the Treasury, and according to the principles by which other claims are settled. The following resolution is submitted :

Resolved, That the Committee of Claims be discharged from the further consideration of the above claim, and that the same be laid on the table.