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Report : Mr. Dawson

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 22, 1853.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DAWSON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany bill S. No. 633.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of Mrs. Harriet O. Read, executrix of the late Lieutenant Colonel A. C. W. Fanning, of the United States army, make the following report :

That they have devoted much time and trouble to the investigation of these accounts, many of the papers and vouchers necessary to sustain them having been lost or burnt. Colonel Fanning alluded to these accounts in his will, and bequeathed them to his heirs as a part of his estate, in the confident belief that Congress would not hesitate to provide for their payment.

As United States commissioner, he received St. Mark's and again restored it. For this service a very reasonable charge of \$1,000 is made, of which amount he received \$200, (see voucher G,) that being all the balance on hand of the appropriation made by Congress for the cession of the Floridas. Vouchers B, C, and D show that Colonel Fanning performed the service, and E that similar service was paid for at the rate of \$6 per day.

Voucher H shows that Colonel Fanning presented a claim for four years' service as Indian agent as early as 1824, when it was rejected by Mr. Calhoun, Secretary of War, "because the government had no right to appoint an agent in Florida prior to the cession of that country to the United States." The committee are satisfied that this service was faithfully performed, amid great privations and personal dangers. Letter K, from the Indian Department, shows that \$1,500 per annum is the amount usually paid to Indian agents at that period. The War Department, in disallowing a part of this charge, does not deny the rendition of the service, but assures Colonel Fanning that his account for expenses actually incurred by him as such agent would be paid him if sustained by proper vouchers. (See I.) He received \$220 on account of this charge. (See J.)

The account also includes a charge of 2½ per cent. commission upon \$50,000 disbursed by him in building the arsenal at Augusta, Georgia. Paper shows that the disbursement was made as charged, and the rate of commission is what is usually paid for such cases. The disbursements were attended with much trouble and risk, and it was owing to Colonel Fanning's good management that heavy losses were not sustained by himself or the government, as he was frequently called away

to attend courts-martial at great distances, and consequently obliged to intrust his funds and their disbursements to his subordinate. His accounts at the Treasury have been settled to a cent.

Upon a careful examination of this case, and with a desire to do justice to the legal representatives of a meritorious and gallant officer, whose death was produced prematurely by the privations and hardships to which he was exposed in the faithful discharge of the very extraordinary duties for which this account is rendered, the committee have concluded to allow the account, as follows, viz :

For balance due Colonel Fanning as United States commissioner in receiving and restoring St. Mark's.....	\$1,000	
Balance of salary as Indian agent at Fort Gadsden and St. Mark's, from 28th April, 1818, to 4th December, 1821, three years seven months and six days, at \$1,000 per annum	3,600	
Commission, 2½ per cent., on \$50,000 disbursed on account of Augusta arsenal, Georgia	1,250	
	<hr/>	\$5,850
CR. By cash on account.....		420
		<hr/>
		5,430
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And report a bill accordingly.