

MONTANA VOLUNTEERS.

MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF MONTANA,

ASKING

An appropriation for paying debts created in raising Montana volunteers.

MAY 11, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled :

Your memorialists, the council and house of representatives of the Territory of Montana, in legislative assembly convened, respectfully represent :

That during the latter part of the year 1866, and the spring of 1867, the people of this Territory, residing in those counties situated nearest the Indian countries on the Yellowstone and Big Horn, were threatened with an invasion of the hostile Indians of those regions, and so imminent was the danger that many of the residents of Gallatin county, the most prosperous agricultural region of the Territory, were compelled to abandon their farms and flee for protection to the cities in the interior, as shown by petitions hereto annexed.

That the executive of this Territory did telegraph to the War Department, asking for instructions, and, in pursuance of said instructions obtained through orders of the War Department to General Sherman, did raise, equip and send to the threatened quarter for its protection about 500 men, and owing to the continuance of the danger the said force was kept on duty on the outskirts of the settlement for a period of six months, as shown by statements hereto annexed.

That by the maintenance of so large a force for the period named, together with the equipments, horses, provisions, ammunition, &c, purchased for the same, a considerable debt has been incurred, which, your memorialists believe, from documents in possession of the governor, copies of which the executive is requested to transmit herewith, is justly chargeable to the United States, amounting to about \$1,100,000.

The purchases made whereby this debt was incurred, in the opinion of your memorialists, derived from a report of a committee appointed to inquire into this matter, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, were made at reasonable figures, and in accordance with the army regulations of the United States, and

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as many of our citizens who have furnished the bulk of the aforesaid provisions, equipments, &c., are suffering from the same not being paid for.

Your memorialists would, therefore, most respectfully pray your honorable body to appropriate the above sum for the payment of the aforesaid debt.

WELLINGTON STEWART,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

CHAS. S. BAGG,

President of the Council.

Approved December 11, 1867.

GREEN CLAY SMITH,

Governor Montana Territory.

MONTANA TERRITORY, SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Virginia City, December 19, 1867.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of joint memorial No. 5, asking Congress to appropriate \$1,100,000 for certain purposes, approved December 11, 1867, now on file in my office.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Territory, at Virginia City, the year and the day last above written.

[SEAL.]

JAMES TUFTS,

Secretary of Montana.