

ARMS ACCOUNT OF COLORADO.

JULY 17, 1886.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5215.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5215) to relieve the State of Colorado from charges on account of ordnance stores furnished to the State and Territory, submit the following report:

The accompanying letters of the Secretary of War and Chief of Ordnance sufficiently disclose the nature of the claim of the State of Colorado, and the views of the Department in regard to the same. In regard to the sum of \$33,891, the Secretary of War expresses no doubt that it should be credited. In regard to the sum of \$16,259, the Chief of Ordnance appears to be uncertain.

That the committee may be sure of being correct, the committee recommend that the bill be amended by changing the word "amounts" in the sixth line, to the word "amount," and inserting immediately after, the words "of \$33,891." Also, by striking out the words "Territory of Colorado and" in the last line, and that as so amended the bill pass.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, June 5, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, inclosing for information thereon House bill 5215, Forty-ninth Congress, first session; to relieve the State of Colorado from charges on account of ordnance stores furnished to the State and Territory.

In reply, I beg to inclose a report of the 2d instant on the subject from the Chief of Ordnance, who states that he knows of no reason why the State of Colorado should be credited on his books with all the amounts charged against it on the books of his office for arms and ordnance stores issued to the State and Territory, but that there are reasons why one or more of the charges should be so credited.

It will be seen from said report that on September 22, 1868, the governor of Colorado asked for a supply of arms "in view of the fact that for several weeks past large numbers of hostile Indians have been and are still waging a very destructive war upon nearly all the frontier settlements of this Territory"; that a supply was issued amounting to \$33,891, and that in October, 1879, another supply was issued amounting to \$16,259.

It will also be seen that the Chief of Ordnance thinks that the first item should be credited to the State, and presents no objections to the allowance of the second item. I concur in his views. The bill is herewith returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. C. ENDICOTT,
Secretary of War.

Hon. E. S. BRAGG,
Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., June 2, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to return Hon. E. S. Bragg's reference, of 27th ultimo, from the House Committee on Military Affairs, of H. R. 5215, "To relieve the State of Colorado from charges on account of ordnance stores furnished to the State and Territory," and to report:

I know of no reason why Colorado should be credited on our books with the amounts now charged,—*all* the amounts I presume are intended—against it for arms and ordnance stores issued to the State and Territory, but there are reasons why one or more of the charges should be so credited.

The governor of Colorado, on September 22, 1868, writes to the Secretary of War asking for a supply of arms, "in view of the fact that for several weeks past large numbers of hostile Indians have been and are still waging a very destructive war upon nearly all the frontier settlements of this Territory," &c.

This letter was forwarded by General Sherman "approved, these arms and cartridges to be charged to the Territory," and was approved by the Secretary of War. On this, 500 Spencer rifles and 500 Spencer carbines and accouterments, and 50,000 cartridges of each kind, were issued. This issue amounted to \$33,891.

On October 7, 1879, the Secretary of War, then at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, telegraphed to the commanding officer of Rock Island Arsenal as follows:

"You will direct the officer in command of Cheyenne Depot to furnish to the governor of Colorado one thousand stands of arms and 50,000 rounds of ammunition for same, to be charged to his State upon her quota."

No reasons were given, nor are they known, for the issue—presumably an emergency on account of Indian disturbances. The issue amounted to \$16,259.

These two items make a total of \$50,150, which may be credited to the State; certainly the first item of \$33,891 ought to be so credited, and I so recommend.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. V. BENÉT,
Brigadier-General, Chief of Ordnance.

The SECRETARY OF WAR.