

ORDNANCE ACCOUNT WITH THE TERRITORY OF DAKOTA.

MAY 6, 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. 8030.]

*The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8030) to authorize the Secretary of War to credit the Territory of Dakota with certain sums for ordnance and ordnance stores, &c., submit the following report:*

The committee attach hereto the letter of the Secretary of War with the accompanying report of the Chief of Ordnance, in the recommendations of which the committee fully concur.

The committee have amended the bill to correspond with the suggestion of the Secretary of War, and recommend that as so amended the bill do pass.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington City, May 1, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication without date inclosing House bill No. 1830, Forty-ninth Congress, first session, authorizing the Secretary of War to credit the Territory of Dakota with the sum of \$38,625 for ordnance and ordnance stores issued to said Territory in 1867.

In reply I beg to inclose herewith a copy of a report of the Chief of Ordnance, under date of the 28th ultimo, upon this subject. From this report it will be seen that only the sum of \$27,650 is charged against Dakota for arms and ammunition issued to that Territory for defense against hostile Indians under the act of April 7, 1866, which act also provided that the value of the stores should be charged against the quota of that Territory under the law for the arming of the militia. It appears further from this report that in 1872 Congress authorized the issue of arms and ammunition to Montana for defense against Indian raids, but in that case it was not directed that the value of these arms should be charged against the Territory's quota. The Chief of Ordnance states that as the issue of arms to Dakota and Montana were for similar purposes, both of these Territories should be placed upon the same footing, and he therefore recommends the passage of the present bill so amended that the Territory of Dakota shall be relieved from the charge of \$27,650, the value of the stores issued to it under the act of April 7, 1886.

I concur in the recommendation of the Chief of Ordnance.

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., April 28, 1886.*

SIR: I have the honor to return H. R. 8030, referred to the Secretary of War by indorsement of the Hon. E. S. Bragg, chairman Committee on Military Affairs, "for the facts in the case and the views of the Department," and to report—

The books of this office show a charge of only \$27,650 against Dakota for one thousand arms and ammunition issued to that Territory for defense against hostile Indians under the act of April 7, 1866, which also provided that the value of the stores should be charged against the quota due or to become due to the Territory under the law for arming the militia.

In 1872 Congress, by the act of May 21, 1872, authorized the issue of one thousand arms with ammunition to the Territory of Montana for distribution among the settlers for defense against Indian raids, but did not in this case direct that their value should be charged against the Territory's quota on the books of this office.

As the issues made to Dakota and Montana under the above acts of Congress were for similar purposes, their defense against hostile Indians, both Territories should in justice be placed on the same footing. As the issue to Montana was without charge, I recommend that Dakota be relieved from the charge of \$27,650, being the value of the stores issued to it under the act of April 7, 1866.

There is no charge on the books of this office against the then governor of the Territory of Dakota.

I respectfully recommend that H. R. 8030 be so amended, and that it become a law.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

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

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

C