

**MONEYS EXPENDED BY CALIFORNIA, OREGON, NEVADA,
ETC.**

SEPTEMBER 4, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. STONE, of Kentucky, from the Committee on War Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 3420.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3420) authorizing the Secretary of War to ascertain what amount of money has been expended by the States of California, Oregon, and Nevada for military purposes in aid of the Government of the United States during the war of the rebellion, report as follows:

The facts out of which this bill for relief arises will be found stated in Senate report from the Committee on Military Affairs of the present Congress, which report is hereto annexed and made a part of this report. Your committee adopt the said report as their own, and report back the bill and recommend its passage.

[Senate Report No. 2014, Fiftieth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3420) authorizing the Secretary of War to ascertain what amount of money has been expended by the States of California, Oregon, and Nevada for military purposes in aid of the Government of the United States during the war of the rebellion, having considered the same report as follows:

During the war of the rebellion the States of California, Oregon, and Nevada were separated from the Atlantic States by over 1,500 miles of almost uninhabited country. Much apprehension was felt on account of the exposed condition of those distant States, and the Government called upon them to assist in guarding the overland mail and emigrant routes, in preventing Indian outbreaks in the States, and to aid the United States in various ways during the war of the rebellion.

At the beginning of the war Nevada was a Territory, and was admitted into the Union as a State in 1864; but for the purposes of this report Nevada will hereafter be referred to as a State.

These States complied promptly with all the requirements of the General Government, and volunteered all the aid in their power to assist the United States. On the Pacific coast during this time, and particularly in Nevada, prices of all commodities (and also the price of labor) were exceedingly high, and as a mining excitement existed in these States it became necessary to extend aid in many ways in organizing, arming, equipping, furnishing, and maintaining volunteer soldiers and militia beyond the amount required for those purposes in the Eastern States. California, Oregon, and Nevada passed numerous acts to organize and equip soldiers in compliance with the requests of the Government, for which they were compelled to expend large sums of money. They were also compelled to borrow money, upon which a large amount of interest has been paid.

An examination of all the facts connected with these claims, a statement of accounts showing for what the money was paid and under what authority, involves too much detail for a committee of Congress to investigate. They therefore recommend the passage of the accompanying bill, which simply provides for an examination and report upon the facts of the claims of each of these States, so as to enable Congress to take such action as may be just and proper in the premises.

The bill does not commit Congress to the payment of these claims in advance, nor a settlement upon any particular theory. It does not commit Congress in advance to re-imburse these States for bounty or extra money expended by them in furnishing troops to assist the United States in suppressing the war of the rebellion, nor to the payment of interest on moneys borrowed. It simply provides for an ascertainment of such facts so as to enable Congress to legislate intelligently.

A bill for the payment of the claims of Nevada has already been reported by a majority of your committee and is now on the Calendar of the Senate. The report in that case is very elaborate, and some members of your committee desire, before action is taken on it, a more authoritative statement of the case, which will be obtained by the examination now proposed. The claims of California and Oregon are of a similar character to those of Nevada. All these States were differently situated during the rebellion from the other States of the Union, and your committee therefore thought proper to have the same investigation and report made in each case and have them all incorporated in one bill. The writer of this report has prepared an elaborate statement of the claims of California and Oregon, which has been printed by order of the Senate for the use of the committee.

The report on the Nevada claim, known as Senate Report No. 1286, and dated May 14, 1888, and the statement with regard to the claims of California and Oregon will assist the War Department in collecting the laws and orders under which these States expended the money in question, and your committee desire to call the attention of the Secretary of War to these documents in case this bill should become a law.

The laws that have been passed for the investigation of claims of other States are not applicable to the peculiar conditions of these States during the war of the rebellion, and there is no authority under them for the ascertainment of the necessary facts to enable Congress to determine what allowances should be made under the peculiar circumstances which surrounded these States at the time in question.

Your committee report the bill back with an amendment, and when so amended recommend that it do pass.