

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 16, 1878.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 785.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 785) to provide for building a military post for the protection of the citizens of the Black Hills region, have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report:

Your committee, wishing to be apprised of the necessity for constructing a military post, as contemplated by the bill, addressed the honorable Secretary of War on the subject of date February 26, 1878, to which the following reply has been received:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY,
March 6, 1878.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, inclosing Senate bill 785, "to provide for building a military post for the protection of the citizens of the Black Hills region," and requesting the Committee on Military Affairs to be advised as to the propriety of the passage of said bill, and beg to inform the committee that this bill is approved by the General of the Army, who reports upon the subject as follows:

"We must keep pace with our rapidly-growing frontier; valuable mines now exist and are being developed in the Black Hills of Wyoming.

"Incidental thereto, farms and ranches are being opened (necessarily scattered and exposed to Indian depredations), which will need military protection. Troops cannot exist in that region without shelter, and, therefore, a post seems necessary.

"The amount, \$150,000, is deemed ample."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. McCRARY,
Secretary of War.

Hon. GEORGE E. SPENCER,
Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate.

Inasmuch as the Secretary of War advises your committee that the bill is approved by the General of the Army, who considers the construction of such a military post in the region indicated necessary for the protection of the citizens of the Black Hills country and for the shelter of troops, also that the sum of \$150,000 is deemed ample for such purpose, your committee recommend the passage of the bill.