

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 14, 1890.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 2455.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2455) entitled "A bill making appropriation for the improvement of the military reservation known as Fort Walla Walla, in the State of Washington," have had the same under consideration, and report it back favorably and recommend its passage.

Fort Walla Walla was established in May, 1859, because it was a central point from which the Government could operate against the Indians, the post being now garrisoned by cavalry as a menace to the Indians on the Umatilla and the Warm Springs Reservations in the State of Oregon, and those on the Yakima, Nez Percé, Cœur d'Alène, Colville, and Moses Reservations in Idaho and Washington. Lines of railway connect the post with these reservations and other points, so that it would be the work of but a few hours for the military authorities to place troops at threatened places.

It is an economical strategic point, and at this time, when the sections which it covers are so rapidly filling up, it is important that the post be well maintained to the point of efficiency against possible raids, outbreaks, or incursions. The Walla Walla Reservation embraces 619 acres, and adjoins the city of Walla Walla, and is well watered, and much of its arrea susceptible of a high state of cultivation.

The garrison quarters are constructed of wood, and only a few hundred dollars have ever been expended on the improvement of their grounds by the Government.

Your committee is of the opinion that it is to the best interests of the troops, the Government, and sections which the post is maintained to protect, that the small sum asked for be appropriated.

The following communications on the subject reflect the views of the Secretary of War and the Quartermaster-General of the Army on the bill under consideration :

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., February 25, 1890.

SIR: I return herewith Senate bill 2455, "Making appropriation for the improvement of the military reservation known as Fort Walla Walla, in the State of Washington," which has been referred to this Department, and invite your attention to the report of the Quartermaster-General, of the 15th instant, indorsed thereon. The improvement is desirable if it does not interfere with the appropriations that are necessities.

Very respectfully,

REDFIELD PROCTOR,
Secretary of War.

Hon. J. R. HAWLEY,
Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, U. S. Senate,

FORT WALLA WALLA MILITARY RESERVATION.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, February 15, 1890.

Respectfully returned to the Honorable, the Secretary of War.

This bill proposes a grant of \$20,000 for fencing, planting trees, making roads, and driveways, providing officers' quarters and barracks with drainage, and making other needed improvements on the Fort Walla Walla Reservation. Favorable consideration of the bill is recommended.

S. B. HOLABIRD,
Quartermaster-General, U. S. Army.