

California Indian War Debt.

The bill appropriating four hundred thousand dollars by Congress for the payment of expenses incurred in the suppression of Indian hostilities by the State of California, passed in the House of Representatives, Jan. 19th. Mr. Burch introduced a bill for an appropriation of \$500,000 which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. This Committee reported a substitute which was adopted for the original bill. Below are the remarks of Mr. Burch which we take from the *Congressional Globe*:

Mr. BURCH. I move that the rules be suspended, and the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union on the special order.

The motion was agreed to.

The House accordingly resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. MILLSON in the chair.)

The CHAIRMAN. The question before the committee is House bill No. 299, for payment of expenses incurred in the suppression of Indian hostilities by the State of California.

Mr. BURCH. I ask that the original bill be read which I introduced; also, that the Clerk read the substitute reported from the committee on Military Affairs, and the report which accompanies it.

The Clerk read the original bill, the substitute, and the report of the Committee on Military Affairs *in extenso*.

Mr. BURCH. Mr. Chairman, there is a discrepancy between the substitute and the original bill, as introduced by myself. My bill appropriated \$500,000 for the payment of expenses incurred by the State of California in the suppression of Indian hostilities. My State paid out of her treasury thirty to fifty dollars a month for the men she engaged in her service in the suppression of those hostilities. The Committee on Military Affairs reduced that amount \$500,000 to \$400,000. Instead of allowing the amt paid by the State of California to the soldiers in her service, they only allowed the amount paid by the Government to United States soldiers engaged at the same time in similar services. The committee came to the conclusion that \$400,000 would cover all of these expenses. Believing it is the best I can get for my State in payment of the expenses she incurred in the suppression of these Indian hostilities, I am willing to accept the substitute of the Committee on Military Affairs. Of course I would prefer the adoption of my own bill.

Mr. McCLEARNAND. Will the sub

stitute be open to amendment after the question is taken on it?

The CHAIRMAN. It will not. It is now in order to move amendments to the original bill or to the substitute.

Mr. McCLEARNAND. I move to add to the substitute the following proviso:

Provided, That the acceptance of the indemnity hereby provided shall operate as a final and complete discharge and satisfaction of all claims or matters hereinbefore referred to.

Mr. Burch—I do not see the necessity of that amendment.

Mr. McClernand—If we pass this claim, I want it to be a finality. Members know how often claims have been continued, even after they have been paid once or twice. If this is all that is due to California, let us say so in the bill.

Mr. Burch—I do not object to the amendment.

The question was taken; and the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Burch—I desire to make one remark in reference to the objection of the gentleman from Tennessee, and I must say I am surprised that such an objection should come from him.

Mr. Maynard—I desire to disabuse the gentleman from California. I did not interpose an objection; I only made an inquiry.

Mr. Burch—His inquiry was, whether these wars were not got up for the purposes of speculation. In this particular instance I know that was not the case. ~~These wars were instituted by the Governor of our State, after repeated applications to the officers of the General Government, to suppress these depredations.~~ Our State authorities have had no disposition to entail unnecessary expenses on our General Government; but have invariably acted on the defensive, and only to afford necessary protection to our citizens. We are the most remote of all our States save one. We are constantly subjected to harasses and disturbances, to which you of the older States are total strangers. I hope, for your own sakes, you may ever remain so. But, since I have a personal acquaintance with

since I have a personal acquaintance with these hardships, and know the propriety of this appropriation, I hope I shall be pardoned for this trespass on your time, in urging the passage of the bill. I was present when many of these applications were made, and was instrumental, as a member of the Senate of our State, in the passage of an appropriation bill, paying a portion of this war debt out of our own treasury, and issuing bonds for the rest of it.

I was more surprised that this objection should have come from the gentleman from Tennessee than I should have been had it come from any other member of the House; because I believe that this policy of paying for the suppression of Indian hostilities by the States originated with a Senator from his own State—Gen. Jackson; it was inaugurated in '28, and has been continued down to the present time. At the last session of Congress we appropriated \$90,000 to the State of Iowa for moneys expended by her in similar expeditions. We have this morning voted over a million dollars to Texas, another frontier State. Why has the gentleman permitted all these matters to pass by without objection? I presume he must have some special information of the fact that these wars have been got up by the people of California for the purpose of speculation. As was said by ~~the gentleman from Iowa, I do not think~~ we should have discharged our duty, if we had remained quiet, and permitted these insinuations to pass unnoticed. One of these wars occurred in my own senatorial district; and I am well acquainted with the character of the Indians in that country. We have two mountain ranges of eight hundred miles in extent, which were filled with hostile Indians. I believe that we have now sufficiently subdued the hostile Indians in the State, and I doubt very much if there will ever again be an application from our State for the payment of expenses of suppressing Indian wars. I believe the Indians have been thoroughly subdued, so far as we are concerned. I do not know how it may be in the neighboring Territories and State, because last winter there was an Indian war going on in Washoe; but I believe that so far as our State is

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~~concerned, we are entirely rid of the hos-~~
~~tile Indians who have been infesting the~~
~~country.~~

I hope there will be no further objec-
tion urged to this bill. The substitute
has been reported unanimously, I believe,
from the Committee on Military Affairs.
I have a letter from the Third Auditor
of the Treasury, written this winter, rec-
ommending the principle of settlement
which has been adopted by the commit-
tee. The Treasury is thoroughly guard-
ed by the substitute; and it is impossi-
ble for us to get a dollar unless we have
expended it, or incurred it necessarily,
in the opinion of the Secretary of War.
I hope there will be no further objection
to the bill.

~~Mr. Maynard—I would ask the gentle-~~
~~man from California if it is intended to~~
~~pay interest on these disbursements?~~

~~Mr. Burch—No, sir; the bill will not~~
~~even reimburse the State the amount she~~
~~has absolutely expended or incurred.~~

~~Mr. Maynard—The bill is silent as to~~
~~interest.~~

~~Mr. Burch—I will state to the gentle-~~
~~man that the amount paid under this bill~~
~~will not come within \$100,000 of the am't~~
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~~or incurred; but I was willing to accept~~
~~it as the best that we could obtain from~~
~~the Committee on Military Affairs. We~~
~~paid our common soldiers from thirty to~~
~~fifty dollars a month, our captains \$100~~
~~a month, and our other officers from \$100~~
~~a month down to fifty dollars. But this~~
~~bill reduces the pay of our officers and~~
~~soldiers to what is paid by the General~~
~~Government to the regular Army in Cal-~~
~~ifornia; so that we lose, in that one~~
~~thing, about one hundred thousand dol-~~
~~lars.~~

~~Mr. Spinner—I move to amend the sec-~~
~~ond section of the substitute by striking~~
~~out, in the lines five and twenty-six, the~~
~~words "and so forth," and in line forty,~~
~~the words "or otherwise;" and by insert-~~
~~ing, in lines five and twenty-six, before~~

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Mr. Maynard—I would ask the gentleman from California if it is intended to pay interest on these disbursements?

Mr. Burch—No, sir; the bill will not even reimburse the State the amount she has absolutely expended or incurred.

Mr. Maynard—The bill is silent as to interest.

Mr. Burch—I will state to the gentleman that the amount paid under this bill will not come within \$100,000 of the amount which the State has absolutely paid out or incurred; but I was willing to accept it as the best that we could obtain from the Committee on Military Affairs. We paid our common soldiers from thirty to fifty dollars a month, our captains \$100 a month, and our other officers from \$100 a month down to fifty dollars. But this bill reduces the pay of our officers and soldiers to what is paid by the General Government to the regular Army in California; so that we lose, in that one thing, about one hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Spinner—I move to amend the second section of the substitute by striking out, in the lines five and twenty-six, the words "and so forth," and in line forty, the words "or otherwise;" and by inserting, in lines five and twenty-six, before the word "personal," the word "and," and in line thirty-nine, before the word "transportation," the word "and;" so that the section will read:

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the Third Auditor of the Treasury be, and he hereby is, authorized and required to audit the accounts of the said State of California for payments for the services of volunteers, and for supplies, transportation, and personal services, furnished or rendered to said volunteers in the Shasta expedition of 1854, in the Shikiyon expedition of 1855, in the Klamath and Humboldt expedition of 1855, in the San Bernardino expedition of 1855, in the Klamath expedition of 1856, in the Mo-

doe expedition of 1856, in the Tulare ex-
pedition of 1856, in the Klamath and
Humboldt expedition of 1858-59, and in
the Pitt river expedition of 1859; *Provi-
ded*, That no higher rate shall be allowed
or paid for the services of said volunteers
than was paid for the services in the same
grade and for the same time in the United
States Army serving in California; nor
shall payment be made for the services
of any such volunteers except for the
time during which they shall be shown
by satisfactory evidence to have been en-
gaged in actual service in the field; *And
provided further*, That no allowance shall
be made for the services of any person in
more than one capacity for the same time:
And in auditing the said claims for sup-
plies, transportation, and personal servi-
ces, the same shall be computed at prices
corresponding, as near as can be ascer-
tained, to the rates paid similar supplies,
transportation, &c., furnished or rendered
to the United States Army in the same
country, at the same time; and the Third
Auditor, as to all principles not expressly
settled by this act, shall be governed in
auditing and settling said claims by the
principles adopted in his report upon the
claims of the Territories of Washington
and Oregon, of the 7th of February 1860,
in pursuance of a resolution of the House
of Representatives, passed the 8th of Feb-
ruary, 1859: *Provided*, That he be, and
he hereby is, authorized and directed,
whenever in his opinion the evidence in
support of any claim for services, supplies,
and transportation, is not sufficient to es-
tablish such claim, or where he may have
doubts as to the genuineness thereof, to
require additional and satisfactory proof
touching such claim, or the value of the
services rendered, or supplies furnished,
before reporting such claim for settlement
and payment as herein directed: *And
provided further*, That no payment shall
be made for the expenses of any expedi-
tion hereinbefore mentioned, if the Secre-
tary of War shall be of opinion that there
was not a necessity for calling out said
troops."

I think the words "so forth" in a stat-
ute are altogether too loose.

Mr. Burch—The effect of the gentle-

troops."

I think the words "so forth" in a statute are altogether too loose.

Mr. Burch—The effect of the gentleman's amendment would be to make the rule of payment imposed upon the Third Auditor apply only to transportation, supplies, and personal services.

Mr. Spinner—Precisely so. What else should there be?

Mr. Burch—We have hired horses and purchased them; but I will not object.

Mr. Spinner's amendment was agreed to.

The substitute, as amended, was then adopted.

Mr. Barr—I move to add the following to the bill:

And provided, That said State of California does not secede from the Union, and set up a separate government.

Mr. Burch—I must raise a point of order upon the amendment. It is an imputation that I have a disposition to go out of the Union, whereas my State has, as yet no cause for so doing. [Laughter.]

Mr. Lovejoy—It is very appropriate, as the gentleman from California voted against the resolution to sustain Major Anderson.

The Chairman—The Chair does not see that the amendment is out of order.

Mr. Barr—I withdraw the amendment.

Mr. Burch—I move that the committee do now rise and report the bill to the House.

The motion was agreed to.

~~So the committee rose, and the Speaker having resumed the chair, Mr. Millson reported that the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union had, according to order, had under consideration the bill (H. R. No. 299) for the payment of expenses incurred in the suppression of Indian hostilities in the State of California, and had instructed him to report the same to the House with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.~~

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed, and read a third time; and, being engrossed, it was accordingly read the third time, and passed.

