

Indian War Bonds.

As the time for the meeting of the Legislature is at hand, it is proper for the press to bring forward subjects demanding the attention of our representatives at this session. Among these, we would mention the matter of providing, by some action more just and satisfactory than any yet adopted, for the payment of the long standing claims of many of the citizens of this State, for services rendered and supplies furnished in the suppression of Indian hostilities, and also for property destroyed and losses sustained by Indian depredations.

The most of the claims here referred to belong to citizens in the northern portion of the State, embraced in the counties of Siskiyou, Klamath, Del Norte and Humboldt, and have long been deferred—some of them arising as far back as 1852. We are aware that claims are frequently trumped up against the State and General Government, but this will hardly be said of those from the counties in question, as most of them have already passed a rigid overhauling by two different Boards of Examiners. By an act passed in 1856, a Board of Commissioners were appointed for the counties of Humboldt, Klamath and Siskiyou, and said commissioners visited each of these counties and carefully examined all claims submitted to them; and for this purpose were empowered to send for persons and papers and administer oaths to parties and witnesses. After completing their labors they reported to the Governor the result thereof, giving the claims presented and allowed, who transmitted the same to the Legislature. The result was, an act was passed providing for running these claims through another examining mill, composed of the State Treasurer, Controller and Quarter-master-General, and if then found correct, Bonds were to be issued to the claimants,

The Legislature. The bill was not passed providing for running these claims through another examining mill, composed of the State Treasurer, Controller and Quartermaster-General, and if then found correct Bonds were to be issued to the claimants, payable, however, only "out of any moneys which may be appropriated by Congress to this State to defray the expenses incurred in the suppression of Indian hostilities." &c. This act was amended in some of its features in 1858 and again at the last session, but still the provision is retained which pays *bonafide* sufferers in our various Indian outbreaks in the unsubstantial currency of faith and expectation.

As between the State and Federal Government these claims should unquestionably be paid by the latter. The Indian tribes are under its jurisdiction, and if they were properly taken care of there would be no expenses to suppress their murderous outbreaks, nor spoliation of property from their depredations. But as between the State and her citizens, we think it is clearly her duty to pay all just and honest expenses in keeping the Indians in subjection, and repay, in part at least, those who have been robbed and plundered by them. Thousands are expended every year in the arrest, transportation and confinement or execution of a few criminals who prey upon the lives and property of their race, why not be to some extent to punish and keep in check these savages? It is the first duty of the State to protect the lives of her people and secure them in the enjoyment of honestly acquired property. For these objects governments are created, and when they fail in this respect they are tolerated for no good purpose. And if peaceable citizens are to be killed, and their property destroyed or appropriated by their murderers we can see very little difference whether it be by a white skin or red skin. By whatever race or color crimes are committed it is the duty of a Sovereign

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State to punish and suppress them within  
her borders, and if the ordinary police force  
is not sufficient, volunteers, who in good faith  
perform the same service, should be paid the  
same. For these reasons we have always  
been in favor of the State paying the claims  
now under consideration, they having been  
found to be honest and fair. None other  
should receive favor from any quarter. If the  
amount so paid should be refunded by Con-  
gress, as will doubtless be the case as hereto-  
fore, the State will lose nothing. But if it  
never should be so refunded still the claim-  
ants are entitled, upon ever principle of jus-  
tice, to that which has been found due them,  
and the State is better able to pay them than  
they to give it to her. In 1852, when the  
State was without funds and in debt, she  
possessed the honesty to pledge her faith for  
the payment of Indian war claims, not  
one quarter as reasonable and just as the  
present; and the amount for which she thus  
became responsible, has been refunded by  
Congress, within a small fraction. Now  
that she has the means, it is wrong not to  
show some disposition to pay these claims.—  
Why not pay them as well as those contract-  
ed last winter under General Kibbe? His  
company was perhaps more regularly called  
into service, but had no greater claim on the  
State Treasury for payment than the Indian  
expeditions in these counties prior to his.

