

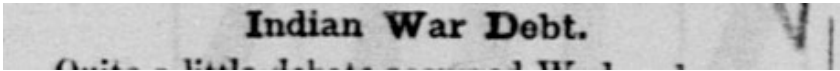
powered by



A Freely Accessible  
Repository of Digitized  
California Newspapers from  
1846 to the Present



Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 8, Number 1223, 23 February 1855 — Indian War Debt. [ARTICLE]



Quite a little debate occurred Wednesday upon a bill to authorize the appointment of a Commissioner to proceed to Washington with the evidence to show how much the State has absolutely paid for legitimate war claims, as required by the act of Congress making the appropriation. In the bill, as reported by the committee, it was stipulated that he should receive for his services one per cent. A motion to strike out the one per cent. carried, and pending another to fill the blank with one-half of one per cent. the bill was laid on the table. If the whole amount appropriated by Congress were received, the latter rate would give the Commissioner four thousand seven hundred and some odd dollars. A disposition was manifested to give in lieu of a per cent. a fixed salary.

It is very necessary that this matter should be adjusted at an early day, as the entire debt is drawing interest against the State, while the money appropriated by the General Government is lying in the Treasury at Washington. A half per cent. is certainly as little as any man of character and capacity would be willing to accept as a compensation for assuming the responsibility attending to a financial operation of such magnitude.

It is understood that most of the vouchers were prepared by Dr. Pierce, who spent the winter of 1854 in Washington, assisting to get this large Indian war claim through Congress. He was requested by Gov. Bigler to act as the State's agent in the matter, but the past Legislature neglected to pay him for his services. He is now in Washington, and could close the negotiation for the State and remit her money in a few days, were he authorized so to do. Mr. Burke was doubtless correct in supposing it unnecessary to send a man to Washington to do that which could be just as well done there by an agent. All the proof must, of course, be made in this State, before the documents leave. They would simply be examined in Washington.

simply be examined in Washington.

After the money is obtained by the State, what is to be done with it? Is it to be saved to pay those war bonds? or is it to be paid into the general fund? The bonds are not due for some years: they are said to be mostly owned in Europe; it is doubtful whether they would be surrendered after the State commences to pay the interest regularly, and the money would be useless in the State Treasury unless appropriated for general State purposes. If this money is to be used to redeem State warrants, possibly we could get along without a funding law.