

ALICE M. STAFFORD, ADMINISTRATRIX.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

RETURNING, WITHOUT APPROVAL, SENATE BILL NO. 2578,
ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF ALICE M. STAFFORD,
ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE ESTATE OF CAPT. STEPHEN R.
STAFFORD."

FEBRUARY 4, 1907.—Read, referred to the Committee on Claims and ordered to be
printed.

To the Senate:

I return herewith, without approval, Senate bill No. 2578, entitled "An act for the relief of Alice M. Stafford, administratrix of the estate of Capt. Stephen R. Stafford." The bill authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Treasury to pay Alice M. Stafford, administratrix of the estate of Capt. Stephen R. Stafford, late of the Fifteenth Regiment of Infantry, the sum of \$1,371.87, that sum being the amount of money necessarily advanced and paid by him out of his own personal funds while post commissary at Fort Wingate, N. Mex., in the years 1879 and 1880, in order that the troops in said command might have fresh beef and necessary food during the fourteen months' drought, in which no rain fell in the region of said fort, and during which time the beef presented for issue by the beef contractor was of such poor quality as to be unfit for food for such command.

It appears from the records of the War Department that Captain Stafford, in the months of May and June, 1880, purchased beef in the open market to the amount of 10,975 pounds, at 12½ cents per pound, paying therefor \$1,371.87 of Government funds. Of the amount so purchased he accounted on his returns for 4,975.75 pounds of the value of \$621.95, but failed to take up and properly account for 5,999.25 pounds of the value of \$749.92. This sum Captain Stafford failed to account for, though repeatedly directed to do so, whereupon the cost of the beef was charged against him in the settlement of his accounts, and was adjusted by the stoppage of \$749.92 from his pay.

It will thus appear that the sum of \$1,371.87, which the Secretary of the Treasury is directed to pay to the administratrix of Captain Stafford's estate, exceeds the amount of the stoppage and does not accurately represent the amount which was deducted from his pay in the final settlement of his accounts.

As the inclosed bill vests no discretion in the Secretary of the Treasury to allow a less amount than \$1,371.87 in settlement of the claim, but requires a sum to be paid to the beneficiary in the act that exceeds the amount stopped against Captain Stafford's pay, I am unable to give my approval to the bill, which is herewith returned.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

February 4, 1907.

FIFTY-NINTH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; AT THE
SECOND SESSION,

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the third day
of December, one thousand nine hundred and six.

AN ACT For the relief of Alice M. Stafford, administratrix of the estate of Captain Stephen R. Stafford.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed to pay to Alice M. Stafford, administratrix of the estate of Captain Stephen R. Stafford, of the Fifteenth Infantry, United States Army, out of any money not otherwise appropriated, the sum of one thousand three hundred and seventy-one dollars and eighty-seven cents, the same being the amount of money necessarily advanced and paid by him out of his own personal funds while first lieutenant and regimental quartermaster Fifteenth Infantry, post quartermaster and commissary at Fort Wingate, New Mexico, in the years eighteen hundred and seventy-nine and eighteen hundred and eighty, in order that the troops in said command might have fresh beef and necessary food during the fourteen months' drought in which no rain fell in the region of said fort, and during which time the beef presented for issue by the beef contractor was of such poor quality as to be unfit for food for said command.

J. G. CANNON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

CHAS. W. FAIRBANKS,

*Vice-President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

I certify that this Act originated in the Senate.

CHARLES G. BENNETT,

Secretary.

By H. M. ROSE,

Assistant Secretary.