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DEFENCE OF GENERAL CASS.

SPEECH OF HON. R. MCLELLAND, OF MICHIGAN.

In the House of Representatives, Saturday, July 1, 1848, on the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation Bill.

Mr. MCLELLAND said: Mr. Chairman: During five years of service in this House, I have never yet made a strictly party speech upon any question...

The most prominent charge against General Cass is, that whilst Governor of the Territory of Michigan, he drew besides his salary as Governor, enormous amounts of extra compensation...

General Cass was Governor of the Territory of Michigan, and ex officio superintendent of Indian Affairs...

would be allowed. The claim, from its nature, could only be satisfied on equitable principles, it being impossible to state the items of expense to which, situated as he was, he was exposed from his intercourse with the Indians...

It is only one of the many instances in which General Cass subjected himself to similar risk and danger with the same promptness and determination...

When General Cass entered upon his duties as Secretary of War, there was due to him the same allowance for the balance of his term as superintendent...

the most honest sense of propriety, he addressed upon the account the following: "In the peculiar position in which I now stand in relation to the department...

It accordingly remained suspended until November, 1837, a year after he had left the country for France, when it was taken up and allowed, as a matter of course...

Under these circumstances, he considered that some reasonable allowance should be made to him for the extra labor and heavy expenses to which he was subjected...

By a Commissioner appointed at Chicago, in 1825, between June and August, 1821, (\$416); and for 360 miles, at the rate of 50 cents per mile, (\$180); and for 20 miles, at the rate of 50 cents per mile, (\$100);...

Similar services, as Commissioner to treat with Indians at Washington, between the 10th and 30th May, 1825, (\$256).

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I will now devote a few moments to showing that it has been the invariable practice of the Government to make what the gentlemen please to designate extra allowances; and I do so, not as malicious or improper spirit, but only for the purpose of relieving a distinguished man's character from a vile suspicion.

- 1. For a per diem of \$6, from Sept. 22, 1819, to 17th May, 1819, engaged in the compilation of a military code for the army, by order of the War Department, \$1,428 00

- 2. For a per diem of \$6, engaged in 1834 in revising infantry tactics, 1,104 00

- 3. Compensation as author and compiler of the new system of discipline and tactics, and for superintending the printing of the same, 5,000 00

- 4. For a per diem of \$8, for one hundred and eighty-eight days' service as Commissioner at Potawatamie Indians, and treating with the Winnebago, Sacs and Foxes, at Chicago, Prairie du Chien, and Rock Island, from the 24th June to 17th October, 1832, (\$244), and mileage from New York, by way of Chicago and Prairie du Chien, to Rock Island, at 40 cents per mile, (\$1,192); but General Scott not to charge for any transportation in his account as Major General, 2,136 00

