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2 CLAIM OF GOVERNOR DOUGLAS, OF VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

12, 1858, and 12th instant, with their enclosures—copies of all which I have the honor herewith to transmit—throw full light on the character of this claim and the circumstances under which it arose.

Early in the year 1856 the available supplies near the scene of hostilities, on Puget's Sound, being nearly exhausted; the Territory being without funds, and all endeavors to obtain advances of money or goods from private sources having failed, Governor Douglas was appealed to by the governor of Washington, the Hon. Isaac I. Stevens, to lend his assistance in relieving the Territory in the emergency. Governor Douglas, promptly responding to this appeal, advanced from his private means, on two different occasions, funds amounting, in all, to seven thousand dollars, for the return of which Governor Stevens pledged the faith of the United States, with the assurance that an appropriation for the purpose would in all probability be made at the next session of Congress. This sum was expended in the purchase of ammunition and subsistence stores; and there is reason to believe that but for the timely relief afforded the volunteers would have been unable to continue the campaign, thus placing the settlements on the coast at the mercy of the hostile bands of savages then leagued together for their destruction.

Until the present session of Congress this department has been under the impression that this debt arose from an ordinary purchase of goods, made on the same terms as other purchases at that time, from private parties. From the additional information recently brought to my notice, however, I learn that, so far from such being the case, this transaction had in it nothing whatever of a commercial character, but was, in fact, a loan made by the generosity of the chief magistrate of a neighboring colony, in a time of great distress, for the relief of the Territory, and with the guarantee of the national faith as his security. I beg leave, therefore, earnestly to recommend that application may be made to Congress for an appropriation to refund the amount of this claim, with interest, which is clearly demanded by the circumstances of the case.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD.

Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT.

Lord Napier to Mr. Cass.

No. 1]

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S LEGATION,
Washington, November 12, 1858.

SIR: Having learned by the tenor of your note, and the letter from the Department of War which accompanied it, that no appropriation had been made in the last Congress for the satisfaction of Governor Douglas, of Vancouver's Island, and that, in the opinion of that department, the claim of his excellency remained on the same footing as the accounts of other persons engaged in commerce who had ad-