

JOHN H. HALL.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 300.]

JANUARY 4, 1838.

Mr. KEMBLE, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT:

The Military Committee, to which was referred the petition of John H. Hall, of Harper's Ferry, in the State of Virginia, respectfully report:

That this is a petition for compensation for the invention of a new arm, known in the service as Hall's patent rifle, and for certain improvements in the manufacture of fire-arms, whereby the separate parts of a piece are made exactly to one model; thus affording the double advantage of easy repair, in case of accident, and that the uninjured parts of arms worn out in the service may be used for the repair, or reconstruction, of new pieces.

The committee, with every desire to encourage the genius and mechanical talents of the country, consider the latter improvements having been made while the petitioner was in the employment of the Government, and paid, not only for his time and services, but for the cost of his experiments, that therefore the justice or propriety of the claim on account of them was at least questionable; but the invention of a new arm, as Hall's patent rifle certainly is, and the application of the same principle to the musket and carbine, stand upon a different footing, having been made by the petitioner himself, at his own expense, and before he appears to have been introduced into the service of the United States; and presuming, from the certificates which accompany the memorial, as well as from the fact of its introduction into the service, that it is a valuable improvement, the committee would recommend that a liberal remuneration be made to the petitioner for his inventions and patent-rights, and that the same be purchased for the use of the United States; and they accordingly submit a bill to that effect.

Thomas Allen, print.

JOHN H. HALL

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 200]

JANUARY 4, 1838

Mr. KENNEDY from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT

The Military Committee, to which was referred the petition of John H. Hall of Harper's Ferry, in the State of Virginia, respectfully report:

That this is a petition for compensation for the invention of a new gun, known in the service as Hall's patent rifle, and for certain improvements in the manufacture of the arms, whereby the separate parts of a piece are made exactly to one model; thus affording the double advantage of easy repair, in case of accident, and that the injured parts of arms worn out in the service may be used for the repair, or reconstruction of new pieces.

The committee, with every desire to encourage the genius and mechanical talents of the country, consider the latter improvements having been made while the petitioner was in the employment of the Government, and paid, not only for his time and services, but for the cost of his experiments, that therefore the justice of property of the claim on account of them was at least questionable; but the invention of a new arm, as Hall's patent rifle certainly is, and the application of the same principle to the musket and carbine, stand upon a different footing, having been made by the petitioner himself, at his own expense, and before he appears to have been introduced into the service of the United States; and procuring, from the certificates which accompany the memorial, as well as from the fact of its introduction into the service, that it is a valuable improvement, the committee would recommend that a liberal remuneration be made to the petitioner for his inventions and patent-rights, and that the same be purchased for the use of the United States; and they accordingly submit a bill to that effect.