

REPORT
OF
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

IN ANSWER TO

*A resolution of the Senate, as to the expediency of granting the fort at
Chef Menteur Pass to the owner of the land upon which it is erected.*

FEBRUARY 15, 1851.

Ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 14, 1851.

SIR: In reply to a resolution of the Senate of the 12th instant, requesting to be informed "whether or not it would be expedient to surrender up the fort of Chef Menteur to the owner of the lands on which it is erected," I have the honor to enclose herewith a report from the Chief Engineer, stating that the fort at Chef Menteur Pass is an important military post, forming an indispensable part of the works fortifying the approaches to New Orleans, and that the land on which it is erected belongs to the United States. It would not, therefore, in my opinion, be expedient to surrender up the fort to any person, whether claiming title thereto or otherwise.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. M. CONRAD,
Secretary of War

HON. WILLIAM R. KING,
President of the Senate.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 13, 1851.

SIR: In reply to the resolution of the Senate of 12th February, inquiring "whether or not it would be expedient to surrender up the fort of Chef Menteur to the owner of the lands on which it is erected," I have the honor to report:

1. From the records of this office, it appears that the United States own the site of the work at the Chef Menteur Pass, and for 1200 yards in every direction from the work.

2. Fort Wood, at the Chef Menteur Pass, commands one of the two entrances from Lake Borgne into Lake Pontchartrain, covering thus one

of the most important approaches to New Orleans. It is a very efficient fort, is in good preservation, and forms an indispensable part of the system of works designed for the defence of that city. The department is aware of no reasons for the surrender of this work, or for its abandonment as one of the main features of the above named system.

Very respectfully, your most obedient,

JOS. G. TOTTEN,

Brevet Brigadier General, and Chief Engineer.

Hon. C. M. CONRAD,
Secretary of War,

Washington 12. 12. 1861

Dear Sir,

W. G. TOTTEN

Chief Engineer

In reply to a resolution of the Senate of the United States, passed on the 12th inst., and in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives, passed on the 11th inst., I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., and to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., and to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., and to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

C. M. CONRAD

Secretary of War

Hon. William H. Hunt

President of the Senate

Executive Department

Washington 12. 12. 1861

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