

HEIRS OF BENJAMIN MOORE, DECEASED.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 776.]

MAY 25, 1860.

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

REPORT.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of the heirs of Benjamin Moore, deceased, late master armorer of the national armory at Harper's Ferry, asking compensation for the use of his inventions and improvements in the manufacture of arms by the United States, report:

That the said Benjamin Moore devoted a long life (from early youth to the age of seventy) to the service of the United States, in the manufacture and improvement of small arms, in our national armories and arsenals. That from 1812 to the time of his decease, Mr. Moore was employed as master armorer, either at one of our national armories or at some one of the arsenals that have been from time to time erected by the United States in various parts of the country, and during the greater part of this time his compensation was only six hundred dollars per annum.

The evidence that Mr. Moore was a skilful and ingenious mechanic, and devoted his time and talents to the public service with untiring energy and zeal, and with a singular fidelity, throughout his long life, is ample and unquestionable. He invented many improvements in machinery for the manufacture of arms, the use of which has been of incalculable benefit to the United States; but for which he has never received the slightest compensation.

Accompanying the memorial are many letters from distinguished officers who have been connected with the Ordnance department, testifying to the great value of Mr. Moore's inventions and improvements, which have been used by the United States.

R. L. Baker, late lieutenant colonel Ordnance department, United States army, in a letter dated December 10, 1858, and addressed to a son of the said Benjamin Moore, says:

"I think that the reports from the Ordnance department show that under Mr. Moore's administration of the mechanical operations of that armory the objects desired were attained, and that, in addition to a greatly improved system, producing marked economy in the expenditures, an equally important result from the same skilful man-

agement was a decided and highly valuable improvement in the character and quality of the arms manufactured.

"In all the changes that have been made, during Mr. Moore's appointment at the Harper's Ferry armory, in the model of our small arms, I believe he was quite instrumental in their adoption. During the many years that I was a member of the Ordnance board, and that the board was engaged in revising the system of arms, his opinions, views, and advice, were ever at its service, and they were received with the deference due to acknowledged skill, and applied in full confidence in their correctness and great value.

"As a *mechanic* Mr. Moore had few equals, and all his talents as such and his energies were devoted to the public service. He was one of the most conscientious men I have ever known, and with *honesty of purpose* that no temptation could successfully assail ; he was indeed a most trusty guardian of the interests committed to his charge."

General Talcott, late brevet brigadier general Ordnance department, United States army, in a letter dated November 30, 1858, and addressed to the same person, says :

"I would remark that the master armorers at the armories are paid by law a specified sum for performing the duties of master armorers, and when they make any new discovery or invent a new machine which may not only save labor but improve the quality of the work, it is a matter beyond the proper line of their duty and deserves a special compensation as much as if it had been effected by an outsider, who probably would have taken out a patent and oblige the United States to pay heavily for its use.

"If your father's services beyond the line of his duty were to be paid for, and the amount adjusted upon the principles above stated, I can hardly name a sum that would be too great an allowance, or that would equal their value or the benefit derived from them by the government."

Colonel H. K. Craig, in a report made to the Secretary of War, of February 9, 1859, says :

"I think that the allowing a gratuity to workmen in public establishments, or to their heirs, for their inventions and improvements in expediting and cheapening the productions under their charge, must have a beneficial effect for the government ; and am decidedly of opinion that the case of the late master armorer, Mr. Benjamin Moore, is one that merits a liberal consideration from the government."

Your committee, in view of the very large benefit which the United States has derived from the use of valuable inventions of the said Benjamin Moore, herewith report a bill granting to his heirs the sum of ten thousand dollars, and recommend its passage.