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Charles Sumption

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H.R. Rep. No. 373, 26th Cong., 1st Sess. (1840)

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CHARLES SUMPTION.

APRIL 4, 1840.
Laid upon the table.

Mr. GIDDINGS, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee of Claims, to whom was committed the memorial of Charles Sumption, report :

That petitioner sets forth that in 1814, while he resided near Greenville, in the county of Dark, and State of Ohio, the Wyandot and Seneca Indians, being collected for the purpose of holding a treaty with the United States, turned their horses into a cornfield belonging to the petitioner, and thereby destroyed it. He now asks indemnity for his loss.

The claim was submitted to the Committee of Claims of the House of Representatives at the 3d session of the 25th Congress, and was reported upon unfavorably. (Vide Report No. 281, of said session.) The committee have again examined and considered said claim, and fully concur in the view taken thereof in said report; and would further remark, that the loss of the petitioner was of a character common in the western country. It was a trespass committed by individuals, for which; although Indians, they are legally responsible. But as they were not in the employment of Government, or in the discharge of any duty due from them to Government, and as they were in no way connected with the Government, it is difficult to discover on what principle the Government are bound to indemnify the petitioner against trespasses committed by them.

The committee, therefore, recommend to the House, for adoption, the following resolution :

Resolved, That the petitioner is not entitled to relief.

Blair & Rives, printers.