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Isaac S. Ketchum

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ISAAC S. KETCHUM.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 325.]

APRIL 10, 1844.

Mr. HUGHES, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the case of Isaac S. Ketchum, submit the following report :

It appears, from the papers in this case, that Isaac S. Ketchum was appointed special agent by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on the 15th of February, 1840, for the purpose of inducing the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Pottawatomie Indians to remove, under treaty stipulations, to the country assigned them south of the State of Missouri ; as will fully appear from the letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to said Ketchum.

It also appears, from the evidence in this case, that Mr. Ketchum collected together about five hundred Indians, and purchased provisions to the amount of \$1,328 01, and delivered the same to the Indians ; and of this sum, he has been paid by the Secretary of War \$945 ; and the balance, to wit, \$383 01, the Secretary refused to pay—alleging, as a reason, that Mr. Ketchum paid too much for the provisions he purchased for the Government, to feed the Indians with, when collected to emigrate to the country assigned them. After a part of his account was allowed, and the \$383 01 rejected, it appears that Mr. Ketchum procured the testimony of the persons of whom he purchased the provisions, which clearly shows that he actually paid the sum of \$1,328 01 out of his own funds, for the provisions delivered to the Indians ; and, in addition to this, he procures the evidence of sundry respectable persons, establishing the fact that he only paid the customary price for provisions. It does not appear, from any evidence in this case, that Mr. Ketchum acted in bad faith towards the Government ; but, on the contrary, that he acted from the purest of motives, and with the sole and only view of carrying out the object the Government had in view.

The committee, therefore, cannot see any good reason why the Secretary of War should have refused to pay Mr. Ketchum the sum he paid out in good faith. He was the special agent of the Government, invested with full powers to pursue such a course as, in his opinion, would effect the object the Government desired—the removal of the Indians. This important object he aided much in bringing about—and that, too, at a very trifling expense to the Government. The committee being, therefore, of the opinion that Mr. Ketchum should be allowed that portion of his account which was not paid by the Secretary of War, report a bill, allowing him the sum of \$383 01.