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Charles Christy

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CHARLES CHRISTY.

JUNE 12, 1854.—Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Charles Christy, praying indemnity for losses sustained by Indian depredations in California, have had the same under consideration, and make the following report :

The petition states that in the winter of 1850-'51, a considerable number of emigrants had settled in the northern portion of the State of California; that it was understood that provisions of every description were exceedingly scarce in that part of the State. The petitioner, for the purpose of supplying the emigrants, procured some thirty head of mules and horses, and packed them with provisions, and set out north. In the progress of his journey he ascertained that the snow upon an intervening mountain was so considerable, that he would be compelled to wait for the melting of the snow before he could prosecute his journey. He turned back, and had not proceeded far before his mules and horses were stolen (as he alleges) by Indians.

The petition also alleges that the Indians, at the time of driving off the stock, were waging a war with the whites in that vicinity. If this allegation be true, the petitioner, according to the well-settled policy of the government, is not entitled to relief, the losses accruing as an incident of war, by the hand of the enemy.

Your committee are of opinion that the petitioner is not entitled to relief for another reason. The petition shows that the petitioner was a trader, speculating upon provisions, and in the prosecution of his business this loss was sustained. Certainly, it cannot be successfully contended that every trader and adventurer should be compensated for losses that he may sustain in his risks and speculations. This would be a dangerous practice to introduce. Your committee are therefore of opinion that the petition should lie upon the table.