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Report : Claim of J. Shaw

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

July 7, 1854.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SEBASTIAN made the following

REPORT.

(To accompany Bill S. 437.)

The Committee on Indian Affairs, having had under consideration the claim of John Shaw, report :

That in 1828, a special term of the circuit court of the United States was held at Prairie du Chien, by Hon. James Duane Doty, as the additional judge of the Territory of Michigan, for the trial of some Winnebago Indians for the murder of citizens of the United States. Under orders from the War Department, Mr. John Scott was sent a distance of five hundred miles to prosecute the case, and otherwise represent the United States, who found it necessary to procure an interpreter. Several were tried and discharged, who could only interpret the Winnebago language into French; but as it was necessary to get an interpreter who understood the Winnebago, French, and English languages, the services of Mr. Shaw were obtained, who lived then at St. Louis. He, during the trial, performed that service satisfactorily to the court, and the attorneys both for the United States and the Indians. He claims now for his services, and travel and attendance, one thousand dollars. We think it not unreasonable. The judge of the court thinks his services were worth that amount, being the same allowed as extra compensation to the attorneys. A special appropriation was made to cover the expenses of the trial, but it appears from the official letter of the Indian office where these claims were audited, that Mr. Shaw has never either been paid or claimed the amount heretofore. The committee, therefore, report a bill.