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Report : Petition of J. Ryley

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 28, 1857.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. JONES, of Iowa, made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany bill S. 530.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of John Ryley, an Indian, who prays that a pension may be granted him for services in the war of 1812, beg leave to report:

That having conferred with the Hon. Lewis Cass, under whom the petitioner served, the committee find the following statement, signed by General Cass, and adopt the same as part of their report: "I am well acquainted with the petitioner, John Ryley. He is a half-blood Ottawa Indian, who adopted the cause of the United States in the last war with England. He was active, brave, and faithful, and was sent upon various dangerous missions, which he executed satisfactorily. Much of his conduct passed within my own observation, and I relied upon him as a true friend of our cause. I have seen him in action with the Indians, and was well satisfied with him. I have employed him in enterprises of danger and difficulty and found him brave and discreet. In those times it was no light matter to penetrate the Indian country with a view to ascertain the condition and objects and preparations of the Indians, in order to be ready for and counteract them. He has thus traversed extensive regions, and I always placed confidence in his reports and was never deceived. I saw him last fall and found him in a state of destitution, suffering from physical infirmity, and apparently with a slender hold upon life. The interview, to me, was a painful one, recalling, as I did, his past strength and activity, employed in the service of our country, and contrasting in the days of his manhood with his present condition of exposure and wretchedness. It is one of those cases which call for the intervention of Congress."

Therefore your committee would recommend the passage of the accompanying bill.