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Claimants under Winnebago Treaty

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CLAIMANTS UNDER WINNEBAGO TREATY.

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MAY 29, 1858.
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Mr. LEITER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of George W. Cummings and others, claiming damages by reason of their being ousted of their possession of certain lands under the Winnebago treaty, lately made between the United States and said Indians, submit the following report:

Your committee have carefully examined the petition, papers and testimony in this case, and report that they are unanimously of opinion that the claimants have neither any legal nor equitable claim for damages against the government. These claimants have variously claimed damages ranging from forty thousand dollars down to, say, ten thousand dollars, upon mere speculative premises, which are, in themselves, a complete refutation of every shadow of claim on their part, and present themselves to the minds of your committee in a most unfavorable light, as imaginary, speculative, and fraudulent, on the part of the claimants, and an attempt to extort money from the government. If it is true that these parties squatted upon public lands, as they claim, and were ousted by the government, the enormous amounts claimed condemn their whole claim for damages, and should receive at the hands of Congress no favorable consideration.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has informed your committee that all legal, just, and equitable claims of individuals under this treaty have been fully adjusted and paid by that department, so far as he has any knowledge of them.

Your committee therefore unanimously report adverse to the prayer of the petitioners, and ask to be hence discharged from the consideration of the subject.