

2-15-1871

Report : Claim of R. Wright

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Recommended Citation

S. Rep. No. 362, 41st Cong., 3rd Sess. (1871)

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 15, 1871.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BUCKINGHAM, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the claim of Reuben Wright against the Chickasaw Indians, would report:

That Reuben Wright was a licensed trader in the Indian Territory; that in 1863 the disloyalty and violence of the Chickasaws and Choctaws forced him to leave that country, by reason of which he incurred heavy losses both of property taken and used by the Indians, and of debts due from them.

His claim against the Choctaws was audited by a commission and paid by the United States out of money belonging to the tribes, amounting to \$16,194 30.

His claim against the Chickasaws has not been paid, but in May, 1866, a delegation of that tribe while in this city made a compromise with Mr. Wright, in which they recognized the claim as against individual Indians, and requested the Secretary of the Interior to set apart for Mr. Wright the sum of \$5,000, to be taken out of any money which might be coming to the Chickasaws.

This request cannot be complied with, as the seventh article in a treaty made with the Chickasaws on the 22d day of June, 1852, expressly stipulates that "no claim or account shall hereafter be paid by the Government of the United States out of the Chickasaw fund, unless the same shall have first been considered and allowed by the Chickasaw general council: *Provided, however,* that this clause shall not affect payments upon claims under existing contracts made by authority of the Chickasaw general council, or interfere with the due administration of the acts of Congress regulating trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes."

Your committee therefore report adversely upon the claim.