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Report : Memorial of Wells, Fargo, and Company

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 25, 1873.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DAVIS, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

R E P O R T :

The Committee on Claims, to whom were referred the memorial and papers of Wells, Fargo & Co., (mail sub-contractors,) for loss of property, &c., by Indians, make the following report :

In 1864, Benjamin Holladay, of New York, contracted with Post-Office Department for carrying United States mails daily, from Saint Joseph, Missouri, to Salt Lake, Utah, commencing October 1, 1864, and ending September 30, 1868. They sub-contracted with Wells, Fargo & Co., who make claim for \$67,527.65, for property (such as stables, feed, &c.) destroyed on the route, at several points, by Indians, and for furnishing armed men to protect the mails. The account is very loosely made up, excessive charges made, with but little proof to sustain them. There is no evidence or claim made that the Government agreed to protect in any way the property of the contractors, and if there was, Holladay was the contractor, and not Wells, Fargo & Co.

On inquiring at the Post-Office Department, we find that the Department received numerous complaints that the parties failed to comply with their contract, and a special agent was sent out, who reported there were failures, &c. The parties have been paid in full by the Department, and a receipt is on file.

Committee report adversely, and ask to be discharged.

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