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Charles L. Dahler.

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CHARLES L. DAHLER.

MARCH 16, 1878.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ELLSWORTH, from the Committee of Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 798.]

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 798) for the relief of Charles L. Dahler, have had the same under consideration and report as follows:

Thomas Francis Meagher was secretary of the Territory of Montana during the years of 1866 and 1867, and one A. H. Barrett was employed to copy the laws and journals, and to index the same, passed at the third session of the legislative assembly of said Territory, and that for said services he was to receive the sum of \$1,700 in currency, and that it was stipulated between the said Meagher and the said Barrett that the work was to be completed in sixty days from the date of said agreement; and that in order to complete the work within the time specified, the said Barrett was compelled to employ assistance; and to pay the persons so employed, he was compelled to borrow money, gold dust and coin, at that time the only recognized circulating medium in the Territory, and that for the gold dust and coin he had to pay interest at 3 per cent. per month. That in the early part of March, 1867, he had a settlement with the said Meagher, and gave the said Meagher a voucher receipted in full for the sum of \$1,700, and received in part payment of said voucher a draft drawn by said Meagher on assistant treasurer United States, at New York, for \$1,085, and the said draft was sent forward through Mussey, Dahler & Co., bankers, for collection, and that on presentation to the assistant treasurer at New York, payment was refused, as the said Barrett was informed, for the want of funds to Meagher's credit, and that said draft is still unpaid, and that the sum of \$1,085 is all yet unpaid. That the service performed by him under contract with said secretary was service that was required to be performed by the secretary, but at the time this work had to be done the governor was absent from the Territory, and the said secretary was acting governor of the Territory, and so employed in his duties as such acting governor in suppressing Indian hostilities then existing in the Territory as to be unable to perform said copying and indexing, and under the circumstances it was utterly impossible for the secretary to do the work performed by said Barrett.

It is also shown that the claimant is now the lawful owner of said claim, and that in the opinion of your committee the claim is a just one and should be paid.

Your committee, therefore, report back the bill with an amendment and recommend it do pass.

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