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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 30, 1878.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WALLACE, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 2132.]

The Committee on Finance, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 2132) providing for the payment of clerical services and extraordinary expenses under the seventh section of the act of August 18, 1856, in the Pawnee land-district in Kansas, beg leave to report:

That on the 18th of August, 1856, Congress passed an act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to allow registers and receivers of public land-offices such reasonable compensation for clerical services and extraordinary expenses *as he should think just and proper*, and report the same to Congress for appropriation. Said act of 1856 reads as follows:

That in the settlement of the accounts of registers and receivers of the public land-offices the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized to allow, subject to the approval of Congress, such reasonable compensation for additional clerical services and extraordinary expenses incident to said offices as he shall think just and proper, and report to Congress all such cases of allowance, at each succeeding Congress, with estimates of the sum or sums required to pay the same. (Stat. at L., vol. 11, p. 91.)

That on the 26th of January, 1861, the Acting Secretary of the Interior *settled* the accounts of Wm. Brindle, then receiver and acting disbursing agent in the Pawnee land-district in Kansas, under the foregoing act of 1856, *and allowed him* the sum of \$4,713, which *on that day* he reported to Congress for appropriation, as required by that act. That report says:

Mr. Brindle claims clerk-hire during the period of two years and a half at the rate of \$1,800 per year, as the amount he has actually paid; but although he presents in the accompanying letters strong reasons in favor of the amount as claimed by him, but as the recommendation of the Department *in similar cases heretofore* has not exceeded the rate of \$4 per day, and the length of time is considerable, I have deemed it proper to base my recommendation at that. I have the honor, therefore, to recommend the appropriation of the sum of \$4,713 to pay his claims for rent and clerk-hire.

That no appropriation having been made by Congress to pay the sum allowed William Brindle, receiver, &c., on settlement under the act of 1856, his various accounts remain unsettled, and that for want of an appropriation of the sum of \$4,713, admitted on settlement of January 26, 1861, to be due him, his accounts cannot be justly or legally closed.

Your committee are of opinion that the receiver is entitled to an appropriation of the sum of \$4,713, to be passed to his credit on the books of the Treasury, under the report of the Acting Secretary of the Interior of January 26, 1861.

They therefore recommend the passage of House bill No. 2132, with an amendment reserving the right of appeal to either party from the judgment of the court in which the cause of the United States against said Brindle is now pending.