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CONFEDERATED BANDS OF UTE INDIANS IN COLORADO.

FEBRUARY 13, 1893.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HOOKER, of New York, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1234.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1234) "amending an act entitled 'An act to accept and ratify the agreement submitted by the confederated bands of Ute Indians in Colorado for the sale of their reservation in said State, and for other purposes, and to make the necessary appropriations for carrying out the same,'" beg leave to report as follows:

The original act which this bill is intended to amend to the extent of the substitution of one name for another, that of Mrs. Sarah R. Dresser for that of her late husband, George Dresser, provided for the removal of the Ute Indians (except the southern branches of the tribe) from Colorado, and became a law June 15, 1880.

This removal was the outgrowth of the Ute uprising in 1878, which resulted in what is known as the Meeker massacre, in which the agent of the Indians, Mr. N. C. Meeker, and the male employes of the agency were killed by the Indians, while the white women connected with the agency were carried into captivity. The act in question provides for the payment of annuities in money amounting to \$50,000 to the Indians, less the following amounts, to be paid out of that sum to the women who were carried into captivity and afterwards rescued, and the relatives of the murdered men:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|
| Mrs. A. D. Meeker..... | \$500 |
| Miss Josephine Meeker..... | 500 |
| Mrs. Sophronia Price..... | 500 |
| Mrs. Maggie Gordon..... | 500 |
| George Dresser..... | 200 |
| Mrs. Sarah Post..... | 500 |
| Mrs. Eaton, mother of George Eaton..... | 200 |
| The parents of Arthur L. Thompson..... | 200 |
| The father of Fred Shepherd..... | 200 |
| The parents of Wilmer Eskridge..... | 200 |

In each case where \$200 is the amount specified in the above list the money goes to the parents of young men who lost their lives in the massacre. George and Sarah Dresser, of Greeley, Colo., were the parents of two young men who were killed by the Indians in their raid upon the agency. The act, as will be observed, provided for a pension to Mrs. Eaton, mother of George Eaton, \$200; to the parents of Arthur L. Thompson, \$200; to the father of Fred Shepherd, \$200; to the parents of Wilmer Eskridge, \$200. Mrs. Eaton, mother of George Eaton, was

a widow, and the father of Fred Shepherd was a widower. It evidently was the contemplation of the act that where any of the young men who were killed had both parents living, that the pension should go to both parents, as in the case of the parents of Arthur L. Thompson and the parents of Wilmer Eskridge, but by some inadvertence this provision was not made in the case of the two Dresser boys, but it was provided that there should be a pension of \$200 to George Dresser.

George Dresser was the father of Harry S. and Frank G. Dresser, who were killed, but their mother, Mrs. Sarah H. Dresser was, living, and has survived her husband, George Dresser, who died in April, 1888. Since his death Mrs. Dresser has not received the pension. The purpose of the present act is to substitute Mrs. Dresser's name for that of her husband, and the result, if the bill should become a law, would be to give her the \$200 annually which he received while living.

In view of the above facts, that Mrs. Dresser's two sons were killed by the Indians in an unprovoked assault, that other parents of sons thus murdered are receiving an annual allowance of money, and for the additional reason that the money provided for would be taken from the funds of the Utes themselves and not from the National Treasury, we recommend the passage of the bill under consideration.