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Heirs of William W. Dougherty.

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HEIRS OF WILLIAM W. DOUGHERTY.

FEBRUARY 17, 1896.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

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

ADVERSE REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 1289.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1289) for the relief of the heirs of William W. Dougherty, having carefully considered the same, report to the House with the recommendation that it do not pass for the following reason:

Suit was brought by the United States against William W. Dougherty et al., in the circuit court of the United States for the western division of the western district of Missouri, for an amount much less than the original amount claimed by the United States Government to be due from William W. Dougherty, now deceased, as ex-Indian agent, upon the very items which are now sought to be made a basis for claim against the Government, and that the amount sued for was in the nature of a compromise, as appears by the evidence of the claimants themselves, and that in that amount was included \$377.68 back salary due Agent Dougherty, which amount was deducted from the total amount claimed to be due to the United States, leaving a balance of \$155.38 with \$29.74 court costs, which was voluntarily paid by the heirs of said William W. Dougherty, and while said claimants did so under protest, yet they had every opportunity to present any evidence that said amount was not due at that time, but no additional testimony has been furnished by the claimants which is sufficiently definite to warrant a finding that said amount so claimed by the Government was not due.

The committee also find that at that time the court had complete jurisdiction of all matters which are now in controversy.