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Hiram T. Corum and Silas W. Davis.

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HIRAM T. CORUM AND SILAS W. DAVIS.

MAY 23, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 8886.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8886) entitled "A bill for the relief of Hiram T. Corum and Silas W. Davis, of Oregon," beg leave to submit the following report and recommend that said do pass without amendment:

This is a bill enacting that there shall be paid to the claimants the sum of \$300 for seed wheat and potatoes furnished by said claimants to the Indians on the Warm Springs Indian Agency, in the State of Oregon. One Dougherty was agent in charge at the time of the purchase of said wheat and potatoes, April 2, 1888, and immediately thereafter returned to Missouri, on account of failing health, and shortly thereafter died, leaving this transaction unsettled. It remained unsettled until December 15, 1894, when it was passed upon and allowed by Hon. D. M. Browning, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and forwarded to the Auditor for the Interior Department for payment.

By reason of the delay caused by the death of the agent the appropriation originally made for the payment of this claim had been covered back into the Treasury. The payment was refused by the Auditor for the sole reason that there were no funds available for that purpose. The Secretary of the Interior authorized the agent to make the purchase, which was done, the Indians had the benefit, and the claimants should be paid.

The letter of the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs is herewith attached and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, May 21, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, inclosing House bill No. 8886, for the relief of Hiram T. Corum and Silas W. Davis, of Oregon, in the sum of \$300, for seed wheat and potatoes furnished the Indians at Warm Springs Agency, Oreg., and in reply to your request, on behalf of the Committee on Indian Affairs, for a full statement of the case I have the honor to state that, under date of March 2, 1888, the Secretary of the Interior authorized the agent at said agency to expend a sum not exceeding \$300 in the open-market purchase of seed wheat and potatoes for issue to the Indians of said agency for planting purposes; that the agent's accounts for the quarter ending June 30, 1888, show that 12,000 pounds of wheat and 9,600 pounds of potatoes, aggregating the sum of \$300, had been received by him from Messrs. Corum and Davis, and not paid for.

A claim for said \$300 was subsequently filed in this office, allowed for the full amount claimed, and referred to the Auditor of the Treasury for the Interior Department for payment. On account of there being no available funds for the payment of the same, the funds from which it should have originally been paid having been covered into the Treasury under the "surplus fund" account, the claimants have never been paid.

The claim is a just one and, in my opinion, the claimants are entitled to receive the full amount contemplated by the bill referred to.

All the original papers filed in this office by Messrs. Corum and Davis in support of their claim are now in the files of the Auditor for the Interior Department.

The bill accompanying your letter is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

THOS. P. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. W. R. ELLIS,
House of Representatives.
(Through the Secretary of the Interior.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
May 22, 1896.

Respectfully forwarded to Hon. W. R. Ellis, House of Representatives.

WM. H. SIMS,
First Assistant Secretary.

