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Report : Mr. Atchison

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 7, 1847.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ATCHISON, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. No. 72]

The committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of Elijah White, praying compensation for property forcibly taken from him by the Pawnee Indians, find the following to be the facts upon which his claim is founded:

The petitioner was appointed a sub-agent for the Indians west of the Rocky mountains; and on his return from his agency to the States, in company with Charles Saxton, Orus Brown, and Manuel Chapman, whom he had employed as an escort, having a distance over two thousand miles to travel through an Indian country, when the petitioner and his escort had arrived at a place called Grand island, on the Platte river, he was attacked, overpowered, and robbed, by a large band of Pawnee Indians, of various articles of property, amounting in all to the sum of one thousand and eighty dollars.

The act of Congress passed in 1834, regulating intercourse among Indians, provides for the settlement of claims of this nature. By the provisions of said act, the party robbed may make application to the agent, or sub-agent, of said tribe or nation of Indians, for satisfaction; and, if such satisfaction is refused or delayed beyond twelve months, it is the duty of the agent to report the facts to the Indian department, and in the mean time the United States guaranties to the injured party an eventual indemnification. Now, inasmuch as the Pawnee Indians receive no annuities from this government whatever, which could be withheld and applied to the satisfaction of petitioner's claim, and as the government would be ultimately responsible, and the committee being satisfied that the valuation of the goods lost is not too high, they recommend the passage of the bill herewith presented.