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Report : Mr. Atchison

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S. Rep. 275, 30th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1849)

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 29, 1849.

Submitted and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ARCHISON made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the documents and papers relating to the claim of Margueritta Reneau, a half-breed Osage Indian, for compensation for a section of land reserved to her by the treaty of 1825, have examined the same, and report:

That, by the treaty of 1825, between the United States and the Osage tribe of Indians, a reservation of 640 acres of land was made to, and for the use of, one Margueritta Reneau by name, by an act of Congress of 1839. Money, at the rate of two dollars per acre, in lieu of said land, was authorized to be paid to the persons mentioned in the treaty. Congrave Jackson, an officer in the Indian Department, was authorized and directed to make the payments under said act of Congress. Jackson made a payment to a person by the name of Margueritta Reneau, a half-breed Osage Indian; but it was, and is, contended by the petitioner, or present claimant, that the payment so made by Jackson was made to the wrong person, and not to the person intended by the treaty. This complaint was made to the Indian Department, and an officer of the Indian Department, by the name of Joel Crittenden, was directed to investigate the matter and report to the department. Crittenden made such investigation. He examined witnesses to ascertain which was the true Margueritta Reneau, and as such entitled, under the treaty, to the land, and, under the act of Congress, to the money in lieu of the land. He came to the conclusion, from his examination of the case, that the payment was rightfully made by Jackson, and of this opinion was the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The committee, from an examination of the testimony before them, are of opinion that the claimant has altogether failed, so far as testimony is before the committee, to show that the payment was wrongfully made, or that she is at all entitled to relief. They therefore report and recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the petitioner, Margueritta Reneau, has failed to show, by competent testimony, that she is entitled to the relief prayed for.