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William D. Gibson

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Report No. 421.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WILLIAM D. GIBSON.

MARCH 28, 1848.

Laid upon the table.

Mr. CROWELL, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of William D. Gibson, report:

That, upon a careful examination of the case made in the petition and the proof, and admitting the representations in the petition to be true, the committee have come to the conclusion that the petitioner is not entitled to the relief prayed for, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the claim of William D. Gibson be not allowed.

To the Congress of the United States.

William Gibson, of the county of Buchanan, in the State of Missouri, respectfully represents that, in the fall of 1846, he entered into the service of the United States as a wagon-master; when he left Santa Fé on his return home, in the following spring, he was furnished with three yoke of government oxen, and one wagon. The oxen were very poor, and illy fitted for the task assigned them. He was directed by the quartermaster in Santa Fé to progress on his route, in company with his son, until he reached grass sufficient for the cattle, and there to await the arrival of John Bell, of this county, who, by an arrangement made at Santa Fé, had charge of the homeward train. He travelled about sixty-five miles before he reached grass sufficient to sustain the cattle. In the meantime one

yoke of the oxen furnished him entirely failed, and the others were so much reduced, for the want of proper sustenance, that they were wholly unable to pull the wagon. He was, therefore, compelled, in order to save the remaining yoke, and progress as he had been directed, to purchase a yoke of Spanish cattle; which he did from a Spaniard, and gave him thirty-five dollars and thirty-seven and a half cents therefor. This yoke he worked in the government wagon, until they were lost in the manner described in the statement of Mr. Bell, which accompanies this petition, and is respectfully asked to be considered in connexion with it. These facts considered, the undersigned respectfully ask that an act of Congress may be passed for his relief, and that the amount paid for said oxen may be refunded to him. Though the amount is small, it is of much more consequence to him than a larger amount would be to a wealthier man. He cannot permit himself to doubt the justice of his country, and therefore confidently expects to be reimbursed for the amount thus necessarily expended in its service.

WM. D. GIBSON.

STATE OF MISSOURI, }
 County of Buchanan, } ss.

Be it remembered that on the 17th day of February, 1848, before the undersigned, clerk of the county court, within and for the county of Buchanan aforesaid, personally appeared John Bell, who is personally known to me the said clerk to be a citizen of said county, and of good character, and makes oath and says: That, in the fall of 1846, William Gibson, of said county, entered into the service of the United States as a wagon-master. On his return home from Santa Fé in the following spring, one yoke of government oxen with which he had been furnished having failed, he purchased a yoke of Spanish cattle, worth about thirty-five dollars, as he stated, from a Spaniard, and gave him thirty-five dollars and thirty-seven and a half cents therefor. Deponent was not with Mr. Gibson when he purchased the cattle, having been some distance behind him, but he has no doubt, from the character of Mr. Gibson, and the fact that the cattle were not government cattle, that he purchased them as he stated, and for the reason stated. The cattle of Mr. Gibson were worked in one of the government wagons some time after deponent overtook Mr. Gibson; they were attacked by the Indians on the Pawnee fork, and the cattle of Mr. Gibson, together with a number belonging to the government, were either lost or destroyed. When the attack was made, the cattle were some distance from the wagons grazing. The Pawnee fork was up, and the company were waiting its fall. The place is of some notoriety; had been camped upon; and, consequently, the grass was eaten short to a considerable distance. The Indians got between the camp and the oxen, and run them off. Pursuit was instantly made, but the Indians being well mounted and armed with spears,

killed a number of the cattle, ran the others off over the plains, and made their escape. One of Mr. Gibson's cattle was killed, and the other either killed or run off.

JOHN BELL.

Given under my hand, with the seal of said court affixed, at [L. s.] office, in Saint Joseph, this 17th day of February, A. D. 1848.

WILLIAM FOWLER, *Clerk.*