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7-19-1856

George D. Dousman. (To accompany bill H.R. no. 495.).

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Report No. 256, 34th Cong., 1st Sess. (1856)

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GEORGE D. DOUSMAN.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 495.]

JULY 19, 1856.

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

REPORT.

The memorialist, George D. Dousman, of the city of Milwaukee, in the State of Wisconsin, asks to be relieved from a judgment of ten thousand dollars and costs, recovered against him by the United States, being the penalty of a bond signed by him and two others as sureties for William H. Bruce, sub-Indian agent at Green Bay, Wisconsin.

It appears that William H. Bruce was appointed sub-Indian agent at Green Bay on the 2d of April, 1849; that John Bruce, William Phoenix, and George D. Dousman, were the sureties on his official bond; that he held his office two years, and disbursed during that time about \$150,000. The principal agency was at Detroit, in Michigan, and Mr. Bruce performed all the duties of the agency for Wisconsin. When he was removed from office the books showed a balance against him of \$11,514 17. He and his sureties were sued on the bond. While the suit was pending, Mr. Bruce was preparing to come to Washington to effect a final settlement of his accounts, but was taken sick and died.

In April, 1853, judgment was rendered against the sureties on the bond. Mr. Dousman was the only responsible defendant. He has paid the judgment, amounting to \$13,071 71; of which amount \$2,032 18 was for interest.

Among Mr. Bruce's papers were found regular accounts or vouchers for expenditures which had not been allowed by the auditing officer, but which your committee regard as equitable to the amount of \$2,032 18.

The memorialist asks that, inasmuch as Mr. Bruce performed the duties of full agent, he should be allowed the pay of an agent. The agent's salary was \$1,500 per annum; the sub-agent's \$750. The committee regard this request as not unreasonable, and report in favor of granting it.

Mr. Dousman having paid interest at 10 per cent. for two years and a half on the sum of \$3,532 18, more than was due from him, the interest (\$883 30) should be reimbursed him.

The sudden death of Mr. Bruce while his accounts were unsettled, and before he had presented to the auditing officers all his vouchers, incline your committee to consider with favor his claim, repeatedly asserted, in his lifetime, that on a fair settlement with the government he would not be found to be much, if any, in arrears. Your committee are also assured, from reliable sources, that during his lifetime Mr. Bruce was regarded as a man of integrity. But these things will not warrant the committee in granting the prayer of the petitioner in full, in the absence of vouchers or proper accounts verified. They report a bill to cover the above-named equitable claim of \$2,032 18, and to make his salary equal to a full agent's salary, and the return of interest on the excess.

REPORT

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