

5-24-1858

Report : Mr. Sebastian

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Recommended Citation

S. Rep. No. 274, 35th Congress, 1st Sess. (1858)

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 24, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SEBASTIAN made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 403.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the "memorial of George Stealey, praying compensation for his services and remuneration for expenses while on a mission to the Indian tribes in the northern portion of the State of California, under the authority of the Indian commissioners," have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report:

The memorialist was employed in the winter of 1850-'51 by the United States Indian commissioners in California to visit the tribes in the northern portion of that State with a view to arrest the aggressions upon the miners in their neighborhood, and establish peaceful relations between those Indians and the white inhabitants until permanent treaties could be made, in which he was successful. In consequence of the separation of the commissioners before he had returned from his mission, and the exhausted state of the fund provided for the purpose, he, as he alleges, has not been compensated for his services, nor reimbursed the money expended by him out of his own funds in carrying out the object of his mission. He now asks payment for his services and reimbursement of his expenses, a list of which is among the papers, furnished under oath, but unaccompanied by any proper vouchers, other than the statement of one of the commissioners, also filed with the papers, that the said memorialist was employed on the service indicated, which was one of great danger and exposure, and had succeeded in effecting the object of his mission, as the memorialist had alleged in a letter written to the said commissioner.

Your committee are of opinion that the memorialist should be compensated for any services he may have performed under the direction of the United States commissioners, and reimbursed any expenses actually incurred in the performance of the duty assigned to him, on production of satisfactory vouchers showing that the expenses were actually incurred, and that they were necessary to the attainment of the end that he had in view. They therefore recommend the passage of the accompanying bill.