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J. T. Jones.

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J. T. JONES.

[To accompany bill S. No. 122.]

JULY 26, 1866.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SIDNEY CLARKE, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred Senate bill No. 122, appropriating the sum of \$6,700 for the relief of J. T. Jones, an Ottawa Indian, report as follows :

On the 9th of April, 1858, the Secretary of the Interior ordered an investigation into the claims previously made by the said Jones, for depredations committed on his property by white citizens of the United States, on the night of August 29, 1856. This order was transmitted through the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and superintendent to the agent of the Ottawas, and he was instructed to take all the evidence offered in the case, obtain all the facts possible, and transmit a record of the same to the department.

The report of the agent was made July 28, 1858, and states that he excluded all Indian witnesses in the case, but that the testimony of competent and reliable whites established the losses as follows: dwelling and other property burned, \$6,000; gold and silver taken, \$700; injury to business, \$1,000—total, \$7,700. This being less than half the amount claimed by Mr. Jones, the superintendent recommended the payment of this amount, but the Indian Office declined making any allowance for the damage done to the business of Mr. Jones, and recommended an appropriation of \$6,700.

It appears from the testimony that these depredations were committed during the border troubles of 1856, by a considerable body of armed men, who came and went in the night. They not only plundered and destroyed the property, but made attempts upon the life of Mr. Jones. The Indians had refused to take any part in the affrays of that period, and were unable to defend themselves, while the government afforded them no protection. Mr. Jones has been pressing this claim for years, and three bills providing for its payment have passed the Senate, but never been considered by the House.

Believing the claim to be just, and that the United States are legally holden for its payment under the 16th section of the intercourse act of June 30, 1834, the committee recommend the passage of this bill.