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Erastus S. Joslyn.

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ERASTUS S. JOSLYN.

MAY 2, 1872.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1499.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1499) for the relief of Erastus S. Joslyn, of Washington Territory, having considered the same, submit the following report:

It appears from the papers and evidence before the committee that one E. S. Joslyn, about the year 1853, selected and settled upon a tract of land in said Territory, containing three hundred and twenty acres, and became the owner thereof under the provisions of the act of Congress approved on the 27th day of September, 1850, entitled "An act to create the office of surveyor general of public lands in Oregon, and to provide for the survey and make donations to settlers of the public lands," and amendments thereto; that he continued to occupy and improve these lands for about three years, and until the year 1856, when the authorities of the Government of the United States having in charge the Indian affairs of the Territory of Washington took possession of the said lands and improvements, and set the same apart as an Indian reservation, and located thereon a large number of Indians, together with a sub-agency, its employés, and a detachment of troops for their protection. This occupancy continued for three years, and the lands were held and used to the entire exclusion of the said Joslyn and his family.

The claim of the said Joslyn is for damages in consequence of said seizure and occupancy, for the destruction of his property and improvements by the said occupants, and for a rental of the premises occupied. It is in evidence that a large amount of fencing, a valuable young orchard, and a large quantity of timber were destroyed during the said occupancy, on account of which the sum of one thousand dollars damages is claimed. One thousand dollars per annum is claimed as the rental value of the premises, being, in the aggregate, for rent and damages, the sum of four thousand dollars, which is the sum asked to be appropriated in the bill.

The committee, after a full consideration of the evidence submitted to them, conclude that the said Joslyn is entitled, in remuneration for the several matters complained of, to the sum of two thousand dollars. They therefore recommend the passage of the bill with amendments.