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Report : Mr. Hoar

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

—————
JUNE 12, 1890.—Ordered to be printed.
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Mr. HOAR, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1181.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1181) for the relief of Dodd, Brown & Co., have carefully considered the same, and submit the following report:

The claims provided for in this bill are for damages for injuries suffered from various Indian tribes. All the sums are audited and payment recommended by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The committee have had no doubt about the matter except what arose from the fact that the claims have been assigned contrary to the letter of section 3477 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, which declares all transfers or assignments of claims against the United States void before the issuance of a warrant for their payment.

The committee at first intended to advise the rejection of the bill, as they think the statute which prohibits dealing in claims against the government should be strictly enforced; but it has been made to appear to their satisfaction that the claimants were creditors of the persons who suffered the loss, by reason of having furnished the goods which were lost, and took these claims in payment of their debts. These private assignments saved the necessity and cost of an assignment in bankruptcy.

We think they are not within the reason of the prohibition of the statute, and we think Congress may rightfully and justly waive the enforcement of its letter.

The committee therefore recommend the passage of the bill.