

JAMES L. JOHNSON.

FEBRUARY 10, 1874.—Committed to a Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. COMINGO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1924.]

The claimant is the surviving partner of a firm composed of one Preston Beck, jr., deceased, and himself, doing business, under the name of Beck & Johnson, at Santa Fé, New Mexico.

In 1867, as one of their wagon-trains was passing through the then territory of Kansas, on its way to Santa Fé, it was approached by an armed band of Kiowa Indians, who, with threats of violence, took articles of clothing, &c., from the wagons and the men in charge. The latter, by taking their arms in their defense, intimidated the Indians. Articles of food, &c., were subsequently given them to prevent further depredations. After this, as the train was moving on, two of the mules in the train were shot and killed by one of the Indians.

Application for indemnity was presented to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in pursuance of the act of 1834. Indemnity not being thereby secured, the case was brought before the Court of Claims. Having been fully heard on the law and facts, and having fully and fairly tried, as appears from the report of the case, (No. 290, Report of Court of Claims, 2d session, 37th Congress,) the court found for the claimants, and found and estimated the damages at \$250. This finding was made on the 9th of December, 1861.

In view of these facts, your committee return said bill, and recommend that it be amended by striking out all after the words "Beck and Johnson," in the thirteenth line; and that it, after being so amended, do pass.