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SPENCER AND MEAD.

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FEBRUARY 9, 1874.—Committed to a Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1331.]

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1331) for the relief of Joab Spencer and James R. Mead, for supplies furnished the Kansas tribe of Indians, respectfully submit the following report:*

Joab Spencer and James R. Mead were authorized Indian traders with the Kansas Indians, and in 1866 and 1867 furnished to the Indians of the tribe the provisions and goods for which payment is sought. An itemized and verified account of the articles accompanies the claim and proofs. It appears that the articles were furnished in the years 1866 and 1867; that the annual hunt of the tribe in the fall of 1866 was entirely unsuccessful, owing principally to the hostility of Cheyenne Indians, and the tribe were compelled to resort to unusual purchases which could not be met by their ordinary annuities. The payment of the claim in the sum of \$7,509.83, with interest, is asked for by the Indians in a petition of its chiefs and head-men. E. S. Stover, the agent of the tribe, in a report to Thomas Murphy, superintendent of Indian affairs, of November 15, 1867, speaking of the accounts, says: "I have also examined and am satisfied of their correctness, and that they should be paid. The Indians also acknowledge the correctness of the claim, and request the Government to pay it out of any moneys except their regular annuities."

Thomas Murphy, superintendent of Indian affairs, in a communication to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, says: "I believe the account of Spencer and Mead to be correct and just. \* \* \* And respectfully refer the matter to the Department, with the recommendation that the account be paid out of any funds applicable for that purpose."

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs in a report upon the case, says: "From the papers presented in the claim I am satisfied that the articles named in the account were actually furnished, and that the claimants, Messrs. Spencer and Mead, have a just claim for the amount thereof, and should be paid."

The committee are of the opinion that the correctness and justice of the account are fully established by unquestionable proofs, and that

payment should be made as provided in the bill. It appears that the lands in Kansas reserved for these Indians, being over 117,000 acres, are being sold for their benefit under an act of Congress of 1872, from which an ample fund will be derived for the subsistence and civilization of these Indians, and to pay all their obligations; and the effect of this bill will be to enable payment to be made of this claim out of the funds of the Indians, and as requested by themselves.

The committee recommend that the bill do pass.

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