

Report No. 40.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 730.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SAYLES J. BOWEN.

JANUARY 24, 1849.

Mr. NELSON, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Sayles J. Bowen, and accompanying documents, report:*

That the petitioner was employed as a clerk in the office of the Second Auditor of the Treasury Department, for the purpose of examining, stating, and recording the accounts of the Chickasaw Indians, for the disbursement of their funds held in trust for them by the United States, from the first of March, 1846, to the first of July, 1847, a period of one year and four months, at a salary of \$600 per annum, which salary was paid to the petitioner out of the fund known as the "*Chickasaw fund*."

The petitioner was occupied but about one-third of his time in attending to the duties required of him, in relation to said Chickasaw fund; that during the residue of his time he was required by the Second Auditor to perform other duties as a clerk in said office; that for the whole period the petitioner was employed as clerk of the *Chickasaw fund*, and when he was not occupied in the discharge of those duties, being about two-thirds of his time, he was, by the direction of the Second Auditor, employed in adjusting and settling the recruiting accounts of the officers of the army; that he was a very faithful, competent, and meritorious clerk, and rendered every essential service to that department in the adjustment and settlement of the recruiting accounts; all which fully appears by the letter of the chief clerk of that bureau, and that of the clerk having the charge of all the recruiting accounts, submitted to the committee.

Mr. Clark, the clerk having the charge of the "recruiting accounts," states, in his letter submitted to the committee, that the

petitioner, besides attending to all his duties as "*Chickasaw clerk*," stated as many "*recruiting accounts*" as any clerk in that office on that branch of business, and were generally more accurate than those stated by the other clerks.

Mr. Polk, the chief clerk in that bureau, in his letter, says that, if the petitioner had not been employed in the settlement of accounts (alluding to the recruiting accounts) in that office, the employment of some one else in that office would have been indispensably necessary, unless the business had been suffered to remain unperformed.

For the services thus rendered by the petitioner in stating and settling the "*recruiting accounts*," he has received no compensation whatever, the Second Auditor not feeling himself authorized to pay him anything more than his salary of \$600, as Chickasaw clerk.

The petitioner asks to be allowed for those latter services at the rate of \$600 a year, in addition to his salary of \$600 a year, as "*Chickasaw clerk*."

The committee are satisfied that the petitioner has rendered faithful and useful services to the government, besides those devolving upon him as clerk of the Chickasaw fund, and for which latter services he was paid, not by the government, but by the Indians out of the fund held for them by the government.

The committee are, therefore, of opinion that in equity, at least, the petitioner should be allowed for all the services he rendered during the period aforesaid, at the rate of \$1,000 a year, or \$400 a year, in addition to his salary of \$600 a year, as clerk of the "*Chickasaw fund*." They have, in accordance with this opinion, prepared a bill authorizing the payment of \$533 33, (being an allowance at the rate of \$400 a year for 1 year and 4 months,) to the petitioner, and ask leave to introduce the same.