

Report No. 125.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

R. B. MITCHELL.

FEBRUARY 28, 1849.

Laid upon the table.

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

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of R. B. Mitchell, report:

That the evidence before them is insufficient to justify the report of a bill for his relief; they therefore ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office Indian Affairs, February 1, 1849.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 16th instant, asking on behalf of the Committee on Indian Affairs information respecting the claim of R. B. Mitchell, esq., for depredations committed on his property by the Sacs, Foxes, and Iowas, in 1839, and enclosing the petition of Mr. Mitchell to Congress for relief.

The claim of Mr. Mitchell was presented here in February, 1844, and was rejected for the reasons set forth in a letter from this office to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs at St. Louis, of 23d March, 1844, a copy of which is enclosed, by which you will see that the papers were all returned at that time. I also enclose copies of two letters from Sub-agent Richardson, which contain all

the additional information to be found in this office, the papers not having been returned to this office.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. MEDILL.

Hon. CHAS. W. CATHCART,
Of Committee of Indian Affairs,
House of Representatives.

GREAT NEMAHA SUB-AGENCY,
October, 1843.

SIR: Enclosed you will find an account of R. B. Mitchell against the Saos and Foxes of Mo., for plank alleged to have been stolen from said Mitchell by the Sacs and Foxes. I know nothing of the transaction, outside of the deposition herewith enclosed, only that the Indians deny having used any plank whatever. This, however, is no evidence, as they are not famed for their strict veracity. I am compelled to say that I think the plank at least as high again as it should be; about this, however, you are as good a judge as I or any other person. All of which, is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully yours, &c.,

W. P. RICHARDSON,
Indian sub-agent.

D. D. MITCHELL, Esq.,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs,
St. Louis, Mo.

GREAT NEMAHA SUB-AGENCY,
October 18, 1843.

SIR: Enclosed you will find a claim of Robert B. Mitchell, who was a sub-contractor at this place some time ago, against the Iowa Indians for one yoke of work oxen. It is proper for me to say, that the Iowas confessed having killed Mr. Mitchell's cattle, but refused to pay the money for them, saying he charged much more than the cattle were worth. The Iowa interpreter says he knows the Iowas killed the cattle, and that they were a valuable yoke of oxen. They should be made to pay.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. P. RICHARDSON,
Indian sub agent.

D. D. MITCHELL, Esq.
Superintendent Indian Affairs St. Louis, Mo.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office Indian Affairs, March 23, 1844.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st ultimo, enclosing two claims of Robert B. Mitchell, one

against the Sacs and Foxes, for plank stolen by them in 1838, as one witness states, the others stating it to be in 1839; and also a claim against the Iowas for a yoke of oxen stolen in 1839.

It is unnecessary to go into the merits of the claims, or to point out the deficiencies in the testimony, or the non-compliance with the law and regulations, as they are completely barred by the 17th section of the intercourse act, which requires that depredation claims shall be presented within three years from the date of the depredation. You will be pleased to return the claims, which are herewith enclosed, to Mr. Richardson, the sub-agent, and inform him that they are disallowed.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD.

THOS. H. HARVEY, Esq.,
St. Louis, Missouri.