

Report No. 144.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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COLONEL JOHN CROWELL, REPRESENTATIVES OF.

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MARCH 3, 1849.

Laid upon the table.

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

REPORT:

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of the representatives of Colonel John Crowell, deceased, report:*

That from an examination of the case it appears that Colonel Crowell was Indian agent in the Creek nation, and negotiated the treaty of 1826 with that nation, by which the sum of \$274,000 was to be paid to the said Indians for their lands, &c. This sum was disbursed by Colonel Crowell as the proper agent of the government, for which service he claims an allowance of one per cent. on the amount. This and other minor claims for extra services were disallowed by the accounting officers of the treasury upon the final settlement of his account.

There is no evidence before the committee that this demand for extra compensation was renewed during the life time of Colonel Crowell; and the committee are unwilling, at this late day, to disturb the decisions of the government authorities, thus tacitly acquiesced in for a series of years by the party immediately interested, and which, in the opinion of the committee, were just and proper. The services performed were not unusual or extraordinary, but such as are incident to the service in which the claimant was engaged, varying only in amount of liabilities incurred. A departure from the established usage of the government in such cases would open the door to incalculable abuse, and entail upon the government a system of corruption which it were easier to avoid than remove. The committee, therefore, recommend that the claim be not allowed, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.