

ONEIDA INDIANS.

JANUARY 24, 1854.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of the Oneida Indians, of New York, for payment of interest, report:*

That they have considered the prayer of the petitioners. The payments were made to the Oneida Indians, under the treaty of 1838, within a reasonable time after its ratification, and there is, therefore, not even an equitable claim against the government; but, if the fact were otherwise, it is the settled policy of the government to refuse the allowance of any interest on claims against it, upon the assumption that the government is always ready to pay its just debts. The committee think the rule is sound, and should not be departed from in this case. They therefore recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be not granted.