

D. H. JOHNSON.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 781.]

JANUARY 13, 1859.

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

REPORT.

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of D. H. Johnson, "praying compensation for taking the census in the year 1850," have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:

That the claimant by his memorial represents as follows :

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives
of the United States in Congress assembled :*

Your memorialist, Daniel H. Johnson, of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, respectfully represents to your honorable bodies that he was appointed an assistant marshal for the purpose of taking and reporting the census for the district comprising the county of La Pointe, (now La Pointe and Douglass counties,) Wisconsin, in 1850 ; that he was then as now, a resident of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and was so appointed instead of a resident of the district, as he was informed and believes, because the district was so remote and difficult to communicate with that it was impossible to ascertain to whom to send the proper commission in time to have the same forwarded, executed, and returned within the time limited by the census act.

Your memorialist further represents that in order to reach the extreme western end of said district, which lies some twenty-five miles above the head of Lake Superior, he ascended the Mississippi river some seven hundred miles to Sandy Lake, in Minnesota ; and thence by a succession of small streams and *portages* or carrying places to St. Louis river ; and thence down that river to Fond du Lac.

Your memorialist further represents that from the head of steamboat navigation on the Mississippi the above route could then only be travelled in canoes and on foot, assisted by at least two *voyageurs*, who had to be equipped, provisioned, and paid for the whole trip going and returning, and for all the time they were detained at either end of the route ; that on the return trip your memorialist found the waters of St. Louis river so low as to make the navigation extremely difficult, the channel above Fond du Lac being full of rocks and rapids, so that

your memorialist and his *voyageurs* were twelve days in going from La Pointe to Sandy Lake.

Your memorialist further represents that he was obliged to employ an interpreter in taking the census of La Pointe county, many of the inhabitants being only acquainted with the French or Chippewa languages.

Your memorialist further represents that the population of La Pointe county was at that time sparse and scattered in small settlements along the shore and among the islands of Lake Superior from Fond du Lac to the line between Wisconsin and Michigan, the whole number, exclusive of Indians, being only about five hundred. It was therefore a very difficult and expensive undertaking to visit all the inhabitants at their homes, and could only be accomplished by the continual use of boats and the assistance of at least two boatmen or voyageurs.

Your memorialist further represents, that his compensation for the above services amounted to a little over ninety dollars, the same being ascertained by the same method of computation employed to determine the compensation of assistant marshals in the cities and thickly settled districts, your memorialist being allowed nothing for his labor and expense in going to and returning from the district, nor for his extra trouble and outlay in collecting the necessary statistics in that thinly settled and half civilized region.

Your memorialist therefore submits, that he is entitled to extra compensation for the above service to the amount of at least two thousand dollars, and prays your honorable bodies to appropriate that amount for that purpose, and as in duty bound he will ever pray, &c.

DANIEL H. JOHNSON.

MARCH 1, 1858.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, *Crawford County* :

Daniel H. Johnson being first duly sworn, says that the facts set forth in the above memorial are true. Witness my hand and [L. s.] notarial seal, this 1st day of March, 1858.

O. B THOMAS, *Notary Public,*
Crawford county, Wisconsin.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, *Crawford County* :

Hiram Knowlton being first duly sworn according to law upon his oath, saith that he was during the latter part of the year 1850 judge of the sixth judicial court of Wisconsin, comprising the county of La Pointe; (now Douglass and La Pointe;) that he visited that county that year for the purpose of holding court there, immediately after Mr. Johnson, the within named memorialist, had completed the census of the county. Deponent then went to Prairie du Chien by the route mentioned in the within memorial. Deponent further says that the within description of that region, and the means of visiting and returning from the same, are substantially correct. Deponent further says that he is acquainted with the within named memorialist, and be-

lieves that his statements are true, and that he is justly entitled to the relief he claims in the within memorial.

HIRAM KNOWLTON.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 1st day of March, 1858.

[L. s.]

O. B. THOMAS, *Notary Public,*
Crawford county, Wisconsin.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, *Crawford County:*

Buel E. Hutchinson being first duly sworn says he was a resident of Minnesota in 1850; that the within named memorialist performed the service within indicated; that the statements of said memorial relative to the distance, modes of travel, facility of access and the means of communication, and the remoteness of the settlements from each other and the populous portions of Minnesota and Wisconsin, together with the necessity of the heavy expenses represented, are substantially true.

BUEL E. HUTCHINSON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this second day of March, A. D. 1858.

[L. s.]

WILLARD MERRILL, *Notary Public.*

The committee find that the foregoing statements of the memorialist are established by the proofs submitted for their consideration, and in view of the trifling compensation he received for the service rendered, (to wit \$90,) believe that his actual and necessary expenses and disbursements should be allowed him in addition to the \$90 already paid, and they therefore report a bill for the same, and recommend its passage.