

JOSEPH DAVIS.

MARCH 3, 1859.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Joseph Davis, praying compensation for supplies furnished volunteers in Oregon in the year 1853, have had the same under consideration, and have instructed me to report adversely.*

The petitioner claims that he furnished provisions and ammunition to the troops in Oregon in 1853, amounting to the sum of \$790 80. To sustain the claim he presents the certificate of a Mr. Drew, who represents himself to have an A. A. U. S. Q. M. and C. S. There is no satisfactory excuse given why this claim was not presented to the commissioners sent out to Oregon under the act of 1854 to collect these claims. The Secretary of War, when this claim was presented to him for allowance, very properly required the claimant to file his reasons (if any he had) why his claim was not presented to the board. There is another point connected with this claim which your committee think worthy of notice.

Mr. Drew seems to have conducted all the correspondence between the claimant and his attorney; and, from a careful examination of his statements, your committee are unable to reconcile those statements with his certificate of September 1, 1853, in which he positively states that the vouchers had been rendered, and subsequently states that the war accounts had been made up before this claim was rendered. The Secretary of War required explanation upon another point, which your committee deem worthy of notice. It seems, from the evidence and papers on file, that the sum of \$1,911 had been paid to Messrs. Fowler & Davis. The Secretary called upon the claimant to show that he was not the Mr. Davis, of the firm of Fowler & Davis, to whom this allowance was made. No such explanation had been given or attempted. The evidence being in nowise satisfactory, your committee see no reason why Congress should take cognizance of this class of claims, and which was referred to the Secretary of War by the act of July 15, 1854.