

JAMES MONROE.

MAY 4, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BUFFINTON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of James Monroe, praying compensation for three horses lost in the service of the United States in the war of 1812, report :

That the petitioner alleges that while serving as a private in Captain Dunn's company of Indiana Rangers, in the war of 1812, he lost three horses, successively, which he purchased with his own money, at a cost of three hundred and fifty dollars; and that they all died from the effects of hasty marches against the Indians. He refers to the records and files of the Third Auditor's office for evidence in support of his claim, and alleges that the claim was rejected by the department on the sole ground that the horses were not killed in battle.

It appears, from a letter from the Third Auditor, of the 23d of February last, that the papers heretofore filed in said office in support of this claim are not now on file, having been returned to the Hon. R. D. Owen in 1845.

It appears that this claim was presented to Congress shortly after the papers were withdrawn from the Third Auditor's office, by the Hon. R. D. Owen, and the fair presumption is, that all the papers so withdrawn by him were presented to Congress. During the first session of the thirtieth Congress an adverse report was made upon the claim by the Committee of Claims of the House of Representatives, which report, with the memorial of the petitioner, and the evidence in support of the claim, will be found in the second volume of Reports of Committees, H. R., first session thirtieth Congress, No. 202.

The committee reported against the claim on two grounds: first, because "the case did not come within the rules usually respected by Congress when acting upon such cases;" and, second, because of its "not being supported by sufficient evidence, even if it did."

No additional evidence is now presented in support of the claim, and there are some discrepancies between the present and the former statements of the petitioner, which rather prejudice than improve his case. In his petition to the twenty-ninth Congress he alleges that he

lost one bay mare, worth about \$85, by reason of a snake-bite ; one Indian pony, worth about sixty dollars, by reason of a dislocation of the shoulder ; and one small mare, worth about \$85, which died of the cholera. In his present petition he alleges that the three horses, "one after the other, died from the effects of hasty marches against the Indians ;" and that they cost him \$350.

Your committee, concurring in the views presented by the Committee of Claims of the thirtieth Congress, report adversely to the prayer of the petitioner, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.