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JOAB SPENCER AND JAMES R. MEAD.

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JUNE 18, 1874.—Committed to a Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. LOWE, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT :

[To accompany bill H. R. 3754.]

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the message from the President of the United States, returning, without his approval, the bill (H. R. 1331) for the relief of Joab Spencer and James R. Mead for supplies furnished the Kansas tribe of Indians, submit the following report :*

The message of the President gives the following as his reason for returning the bill : “ I withhold my approval of said bill for reasons which satisfy me that the claim should not be allowed for the entire amount stated in the bill, and which are set forth in the letter of the Acting Secretary of the Interior, dated 7th instant, a copy of which, with its accompanying papers, is herewith transmitted.”

From the papers accompanying the President's message, it appears that, from communications made to the Secretary of the Interior subsequent to the passage of the bill through the House, doubt in his mind was thrown upon the correctness of some of the items of the original claim in respect to which relief was sought, and the Acting Secretary, in his communication to the President, suggests “ that the rights of the Indians and of Messrs. Spencer and Mead would be fully protected by a modification of the bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to pay such amount of their claim as might be found to be due.” For the nature of the original claim and the evidence upon which it was founded, your committee refer to the former report upon said bill by this committee, being House Report No. 93 of the present session. It appears that the claim had been approved by the chiefs and head-men of the tribe, by the agent of the tribe, by the superintendent of the superintendency within which the tribe was, by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and by the Secretary of the Interior. Your committee, believing that the claim is substantially just, believe that the rights of the claimants and the Indians will be secured by leaving the amount due upon the original account to be determined by the Secretary of the Interior upon the evidence and any further facts that may be shown ; and they, therefore, recommend the passage of the accompanying bill as a substitute for the former bill, authorizing the Secretary to pay out of the proper tribal fund to the claimants such amount as may be found due, with interest.