

CALIFORNIA INDIAN-WAR BONDS.

JUNE 16, 1874.—Committed to a Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HOWE, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 2503.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. No. 2503) for the payment of certain Indian-war bonds of the State of California, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report :

It appears that this class of Indian-war bonds were issued by an act of the legislature of the State of California approved May 23, 1852, payable in ten years, with interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

Congress, by an act approved January 1, 1854, assumed the payment of these bonds, in accordance with frequent precedents that the General Government was liable for all expenses incurred in the suppression of Indian hostilities.

An appropriation of \$924,259.65 was made for this purpose. On June 29, 1863, there was an unexpended balance of this appropriation of \$10,188.63, which, under the provisions of law, was carried to the surplus-fund of the Treasury. This unexpended balance arose from the fact that certain of these bonds had not been presented for payment. Among this number were the bonds now in the hands of the committee, the holder of these bonds innocently supposing that, as the faith of the Government had been pledged for their payment, they were good at any time on presentation at the Treasury Department. On doing so, however, he found that, while the Treasury Department acknowledged the justice of the claim, of which the bonds are a complete proof, the recent law covering back into the Treasury, after a certain specified time, all unexpended balances of appropriations, prevented the payment, and compels the holder to ask the authorization of Congress for this purpose.

The bonds are duly authenticated. They are indorsed by the three officers of the State, viz: J. Neely Johnson, governor; G. W. Whitman, comptroller; and Henry Bates, treasurer; and accompanying them is the certificate of the present comptroller, James J. Green, as to the genuineness of the bonds.

There is also a letter from Assistant Secretary Sawyer certifying to the amount paid on similar bonds out of the appropriation made by Congress, as heretofore stated, and as to the unexpended balance carried to the surplus-fund, as above cited.

The numbers of these bonds, herein referred to, for which payment is asked, are 164, 166, 167, and 168, for \$354.22 each, making in all the sum of \$1,416.88.

The committee, in view of the foregoing facts, report the bill to the House, with the recommendation that it pass.