

JOHN BLACK.

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MAY 12, 1880.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 3156.]

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3156) for the relief of John Black, report:*

From the evidence in this case it appears that United States Treasury draft No. 7500 was issued to John Black on the 10th day of July, 1866, for services rendered by him in the Indian Department, and delivered to one Perry Fuller, in Washington, D. C.; and that on the 16th of July, 1866, the draft was paid at the United States Treasury, in Washington, upon what purports to be an indorsement of Black and Fuller.

It further appears to the satisfaction of your committee that during all the month of July, 1866, Black was in the State of Arkansas, and could not have indorsed the draft, and knew nothing of its having been issued to him.

An examination of the records and files of the case in the Interior and Treasury Departments develops the further important fact that no authority appears for the delivery of this draft to Fuller, and Black himself testifies under oath that he had no acquaintance with Fuller, and never gave him nor any one else any authority, written or otherwise, to either receive the draft or to indorse it for him, and collect the money due thereon. It also appears from a comparison of the indorsement on the draft with the genuine signature of Black that the name on the draft is a forgery.

Your committee are, therefore, of the opinion that as the evidence is complete that the draft in question was delivered to a third party without authority from the claimant, and thus furnished the opportunity for the forgery by which he has been deprived of his money, he is entitled to be paid the amount due him thereon, and recommend the passage of the accompanying bill.

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