

DODD, BROWN & CO.

JANUARY 15, 1881.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 6855.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4133) for the relief of Dodd, Brown & Co., have carefully considered the same, and submit the following report:

The evidence laid before the committee proves that certain regularly licensed Indian traders suffered damages and losses at different times from various Indian tribes, and that Dodd, Brown & Co. are the lawful and equitable assignees of said traders, having been creditors of the persons who suffered the loss by reason of having furnished the goods which were lost, and other means, to the said Indian traders. The object of the bill is to reimburse the losses sustained through the Indian raids and depredations above referred to.

The proof in the cases, the admissions of the Indians in council, and the reports of the Indian agents and commissioners, all go to show that these claims, with possibly one exception, are just and ought to be paid. The exception alluded to is that of the claim of Durfee & Peck for \$3,085. Of this claim, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in his letter of March 9, 1870, says: "I have no doubt that the claimants suffered a loss at the time and place charged," but, owing to the fact that the statements of witnesses are not upon oath, he refused to report the claim for allowance. It is disallowed by your committee, for the same reason.

A bill similar to this, and covering all these claims, was before the Committee on Claims of the Senate at the last session of Congress, received favorable report, and, on the 15th day of June, passed that body without opposition.

Your committee therefore report back the accompanying substitute for the bill, and unanimously recommend its passage.