

GEORGE STORRS.

MARCH 7, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 843.]

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 843) for the relief of George Storrs, submit the following report:*

The facts of the case are given in the letter of the honorable Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, bearing date December 4, 1880, and herewith submitted.

Those facts clearly show that the claimant is entitled to the relief he seeks, and they therefore report the bill favorably, and recommend its passage.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
 Washington, December 4, 1880.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the claim of George Storrs, filed in this office April 17, 1880, amounting to \$985, on account of depredations alleged to have been committed by Sioux Indians in 1862.

The claimant, in his sworn declaration of March 22, and affidavit of August 6, 1880, states that he is a citizen of the town of Middleville, county of Wright, and State of Minnesota; that in the year 1860 and until the year 1870 he was a resident of the county of McLeod, State of Minnesota; that in the year 1860 he purchased of the Government a certain piece of land, consisting of 80 acres; that he was the owner of said land until the year 1871; that said land was situated in the county of McLeod, State of Minnesota; that he owned said land during the time of the Indian outbreak in said State in 1862; that he was also the owner at the time of said outbreak of certain personal property, kept and cared for on the farm aforesaid, owned by said claimant; that said personal property was of the value of \$985, as follows:

1 yoke of cattle, valued at .....	\$80 00
1 cow, valued at .....	25 00
10 hogs, valued at .....	100 00
6 hogs, valued at .....	30 00
75 chickens, valued at 20 cents each .....	15 00
4 acres of winter wheat, cut and in shock .....	100 00
6 acres of corn, 50 bushels to the acre .....	150 00
1½ acres of potatoes .....	120 00
2 acres of beans .....	75 00
1 acre of garden vegetables .....	25 00
Farming tools .....	40 00
Household furniture .....	100 00
Clothing .....	50 00
Provisions in house .....	75 00

That said property was, during his absence from home, serving as a soldier in the Army of the United States in the year 1862, entirely destroyed or stolen by the Indians; that on the 9th day of August, 1862, he enlisted in the United States service,

in the Sixth Minnesota Volunteers; that he had joined his regiment prior to the time of the outbreak, and was absent with his regiment at the time of the outbreak; that he remained with said regiment until in the winter of 1864, and was then transferred into the invalid corps; that he was not discharged from the service of the United States until the month of July, 1865, and was therefore absent from home at the time of the outbreak and thereafter until the date of his discharge as aforesaid, and was therefore, on account of his absence in the service, unable to make the application at the time claims for such losses by the Indians were made; that this application was not sooner made for the reason that claimant, from all that he could learn, understood that there was no way in which he could recover for the property lost; that he, being himself absent, cannot testify as to the exact manner in which the crops were destroyed, but that they were partially eaten up and trodden down or carried off by the Indians, so as to be worthless; that what was left was not worth harvesting; that after said Indians passed through, everything in and about the place was either so destroyed as to be worthless, or stolen and carried away; that, to the best of his knowledge, the Indians first broke out about the 17th of August on the Yellow Medicine River, and came toward the village of Hutchinson the last of August or the first of September, 1862; that the claimant was then with his regiment stationed at Fort Ripley, Minnesota; that his mother and sister were living on his said farm and in charge of his property at the time of the outbreak; that they remained on his said farm in charge of said land and personal property until after the burning of Hutchinson, a village 12 miles distant from said farm; that immediately after burning the village, said Indians proceeded toward his farm; that many of the inhabitants along said road were either massacred or taken prisoners; that his mother and sister, in order to save their lives, were obliged to leave said farm and all their property to the mercy of the Indians; that they left said farm about the hour of midnight, and took shelter in the woods for the night; that shortly after they left, the Indians came and stole and destroyed all their personal property, household goods, crops, wearing apparel, and everything in and about the premises; that the Indians were of the Sioux tribe; that he has at no time received any indemnity for his loss, and that he has never endeavored to obtain private satisfaction or revenge.

In support of his claim the claimant files the affidavits of Sarah Bentley, his mother, William Luder, Frederick Wagoner, John Barrett, Michael Hart, and Martin Sherman, each of whom state that the facts as set forth in said claimant's declaration are true of their own personal knowledge, and that the prices charged for the property stolen and destroyed are reasonable and just.

Under date of May 20, 1880, Capt. Wm. E. Dougherty, acting United States Indian agent at Cow Creek Agency, Dakota, states, "that, after careful inquiry, nothing can at this time be learned about the case in question."

Under date of June 18, 1880, Isaiah Lightner, agent at the Santee Agency, Nebraska, reports "that he has made careful inquiry, and can learn nothing concerning the alleged depredation."

After considering the evidence presented in this case, I am of the opinion that the following facts are established:

1st. That claimant was the owner and possessor of the property described in said complaint.

2d. That said property was stolen and destroyed by the Sioux Indians as alleged in said declaration; that it was reasonably worth the following amounts, and that he should receive indemnity therefor—

1 yoke of cattle of the value of .....	\$50 00
1 cow of the value of .....	25 00
10 hogs of the value of .....	100 00
6 hogs of the value of .....	30 00
75 chickens of the value of .....	15 00
4 acres of winter wheat of the value of .....	100 00
6 acres of corn of the value of .....	100 00
2 acres of beans of the value of .....	50 00
1½ acres of potatoes of the value of .....	100 00
1 acre of garden vegetables of the value of .....	25 00
Farming tools of the value of .....	40 00
Household furniture of the value of .....	100 00
Clothing of the value of .....	50 00
Provisions in house of the value of .....	25 00
Total .....	840 00

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. M. MARBLE,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

A bill similar to this was before the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Forty-seventh Congress, in respect to which bill the following conclusion was had, viz:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, D. C., March 3, 1882.*

SIR: Inclosed is a bill for the relief of George Storrs, which has been referred to me as a subcommittee. I have examined the papers referred to me bearing upon the case, and reported the facts to the committee. The facts go to show that Storrs is entitled to the relief he asks; but it was asserted in the committee that Congress, some years ago, made an appropriation of \$900,000 with which to pay damages occasioned citizens of Minnesota by the Indian outbreak of 1862, and it was asked why Mr. Storrs had not proved his claim before the commission which sat in liquidation of said damages, and why he had not been paid out of said appropriation of \$900,000 made by the General Government to the State of Minnesota to indemnify her citizens.

The committee finally concluded to pass the bill for the present and until it could have from your office information upon the following points, viz:

1st. What moneys, if any, were appropriated by the Government to indemnify losses occasioned by the Indian outbreak of 1862?

2d. Was a commission organized to liquidate and pay such damages?

3rd. Why was not the claim of Storrs considered by said commission?

Inclosed are all the papers relating to said bill for the relief of Storrs. Please reply at your earliest convenience, giving the information asked for, and returning the bill, papers, and this letter.

Yours, respectfully,

N. C. BLANCHARD

Hon. H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, March 7, 1882.*

SIR: In reply to your inquiries in letter of 3d instant, inclosing a bill for the relief of George Storrs for losses by Sioux Indians in 1862, and other papers, I have the honor to state:

1st. Under the act of Congress approved February 16, 1863 (Stats. 12, p. 652), a commission was appointed to adjust and pay claims for losses on account of the Sioux outbreak in 1862.

2d. By act of May 28, 1864 (Stats. 13, p. 92) \$1,370,374 was appropriated by the Government to indemnify losses occasioned by that outbreak as ascertained by said commission.

3rd. It will be seen that the act of February 16, 1863, limited the time within which claims could be filed with the commission to *September 1, 1863*, and the affidavit of Storrs, which accompanies the papers received with your letter, shows that from the 9th of August, 1862, until July, 1865, he was absent from home in the United States Army, and hence could not file his claim with the commission.

For further information on this point I respectfully refer to the report of this office on the case, dated December 4, 1880, which also accompanies your letter.

As requested, your letter and the papers which accompanied it are herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. N. C. BLANCHARD,  
*House of Representatives.*