

JOHN S. CHESUM.

APRIL 24, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1699.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1699) for the relief of John S. Chesum, have duly considered the same, and submit the following report:

The committee find from the papers submitted by the Secretary of the Interior, including the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with regard to the claim of said John S. Chesum, that he is a respectable citizen of the United States, resident of the State of Texas, and for many years has been engaged in the stock business.

That in the year 1868 he contracted to supply wants of the Government at the military post of Fort Sumner, N. Mex., with a thousand head of beef cattle, from four to seven years old, that would net on the block from 500 to 900 pounds, at \$35 per head.

That to fill this contract claimant purchased in Northern Texas a herd of one thousand one hundred selected beef cattle, from four to eight years old, that averaged 650 pounds each, net, at a cost of \$20 per head.

That on the 12th day of June, 1868, on the way with the cattle for delivery at Fort Sumner, and within a few days' travel of that place, the whole herd and the party in charge were attacked by about one hundred and fifty well-mounted Indians belonging to the Comanche tribe, and all of said cattle were taken, stolen, and driven away by them. The cattle at the time were not on any reservation of said Comanche or any other Indian tribe or tribes, but were on the public highway from Northern Texas to Santa Fé, N. Mex. Pursuit was made by the herders and employés of claimant, and the evidence shows that between sixty and one hundred of said cattle were found on the trail unable to travel. These were returned to claimant.

From the report of the Indian agent of the Comanche tribes we find that at the time of the taking of the cattle of claimant portions of the tribe were known to have a large number of cattle that could not be accounted for except upon the theory that they had appropriated the claimant's herd. The agent so believes, and believing that it is not in his power to make restitution of the property, or make payment, submits the case for Congressional action.

Your committee further find from the testimony that the claimant has lost by the depredation of the said Comanche Indians one thousand head of beef cattle, for which he paid the sum of \$20 per head, and ought to be reimbursed in the sum of \$20,000, and recommend that the bill be amended as follows: Strike out the words "thirty-eight thousand five hundred," in lines 5 and 6, and insert in lieu thereof the words "twenty thousand," and strike out all the words after the word "sixty-eight," in line 8; and, as thus amended, we recommend the passage of the bill.



REPORT

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