

CHARLES RUFFEE.

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JANUARY 25, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 2539.]

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 2539) for the relief of Charles Ruffee, beg leave to make the following report:*

That long before, and on the 28th day of May, 1878, and from thence until March 21, 1879, there were three Indian agencies in the State of Minnesota, with salaries as follows, to wit: The White Earth Agency, at \$1,600; the Red Lake Agency, at \$1,500, and the Leech Lake Agency, at \$1,500.

That during all this time, prior thereto, and until September 30, A. D. 1881, Charles Ruffee was agent at the White Earth Agency.

That by the Indian appropriation act of May 27, 1878 (vol. 20, page 65, Stats. at Large), the sums as specified above were appropriated for the said agencies as salaries for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879. Said appropriation act also contained this clause:

*Provided, That in the case of the consolidation of two or more agencies, the sums appropriated for the salaries of agents at said agencies, or so much thereof as may be necessary, may be used, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, to increase the salary of the agent who shall remain or be placed in charge of the consolidated agency: Provided further, That in no case shall such salary exceed the sum of two thousand two hundred dollars per annum.*

That a like appropriation of salaries for said three agencies was made for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, by the act of February 17, A. D. 1879 (vol. 20, page 295, Stats. at Large).

That on the 21st day of March, A. D. 1879, the said Leech Lake and Red Lake Agencies were, by the order of the Interior Department, consolidated with the White Earth Agency.

That at the time of such consolidation the aggregate salary of the three agencies was \$4,600.

That from the time of such consolidation till the 1st day of July, 1879, Ruffee received, as agent at White Earth, under the letter and spirit of the said proviso of the said act of May 27, 1878, salary at the rate of \$2,250 per annum.

That for the rest of his term at said White Earth consolidated agency he failed to receive more than \$1,600 per annum, through lack of appropriation therefor.

He insists that under the spirit and equity, if not the clear language, of the act of 1878, quoted above, he ought to have been paid till the end of his term at the rate of \$2,200 per annum, and that he is fairly entitled to recover the difference between \$1,600 and \$2,200 per annum from June 30, 1879, till the end of his term, September 30, 1881, amounting to the sum of \$1,350. There being appropriated for the three agencies as salaries for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, the aggregate sum of \$4,600, while for subsequent years but \$1,600 for White Earth, your committee believe that Mr. Ruffee is fairly entitled to be allowed the difference between \$1,600 and \$2,200 per annum for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, and recommend the bill be accordingly so amended, and with this amendment that it do pass.

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