

JOHN W. DORSEY.

JANUARY 15, 1889.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BIGGS, from the Committee on Indian Depredation Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 6997.]

The undersigned members of the Committee on Indian Depredation Claims authorize Hon. Marion Biggs to report House bill 6997, for the relief of J. W. Dorsey, favorably.

SILAS HARE.
MARION BIGGS.
STEPHEN T. HOPKINS.
BENJ. F. SHIVELY.
JONAS G. HOWARD.
BINGER HERMANN.
E. S. WILLIAMS.
G. G. SYMES.
JOHN R. BROWN.

The Committee on Indian Depredation Claims, to whom was referred the bill entitled as above, beg leave to report that the facts have been fully submitted to us, and we find as follows:

That said John W. Dorsey was a resident of Nevada and the owner of large bands of cattle and horses therein in the years 1864 and 1865. That during the winter of 1864-'65 there was a general uprising of the tribes of the Piute, Shoshone, and Bannack Indians, and in mounted squads they burned, destroyed, and carried off much property of the settlers, and among them a large portion of the cattle and many horses belonging to said John W. Dorsey. The actual cash value at the then market prices there of said Dorsey's property so taken off and destroyed we find to be as set forth in the said H. R. No. 6997.

We also find that said claimant used every exertion within his command in defending and protecting his property, and in so doing several of his herders and employés were severely and dangerously wounded in repelling attacks, and in one instance a severe conflict occurred in the attempted burning by the Indians of the cabin occupied by the herder.

The proof of the destruction and the identity of the property destroyed is full and satisfactory to us. We also find that the Government was very negligent in its protection of the settlers in Nevada at that time, as it left them, with few exceptions, to their own resources

and their own physical means of defense. The regular troops were largely drawn from the frontier and used in the late civil war.

We also find that said uprising of said Indians was not occasioned by any act of said claimant or his employés, and nothing appears before us that said property was in anywise trespassing upon any Indian lands, and that the Indian attacks and depredations were unjustifiable, unprovoked, and wanton in the extreme, and against the rights of a feeble, unprotected, and unoffending community of American settlers, who were peaceably occupying the public domain at the time of said attack.

That said bill may be made to correspond with our findings of fact we recommend that the same be amended by striking out so much thereof as follows the words "fifty dollars" in line 6, and, so modified and reduced, we recommend the passage of the bill.

Amend the title by striking out the words, "and others."