

NATHAN BUTLER.

JULY 15, 1890.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. RAY, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 1453.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1453) for the relief of Nathan Butler, having had the same under consideration, make the following report:

The Committee on War Claims, to whom this bill was originally referred, were discharged April 28, 1890, from its further consideration, and it was sent to the Committee on Claims.

Nathan Butler, under the direction of the Interior Department, went to Red Lake Indian Reservation, Minnesota, and examined and made an estimate of the amount of dead pine timber thereon. The services were rendered in the year 1875, under the direction of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

A contract previously entered into for the sale of the timber was canceled, and no funds were ever in the office that could be applied to the payment of this claim. The justice of the claim is unquestioned by the Department and the employment of Mr. Butler admitted.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 9, 1876.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, respecting your claim of \$161.30 for services rendered in making a survey of the burnt pine timber on the Red Lake Indian Reservation in Minnesota under office instructions of the 29th of September, 1875, with a view of ascertaining the quantity and value of said timber, you are advised, that, by the cancellation of Mr. Loren Fletcher's contract for the purchase of said burnt pine timber, no funds have ever been received by this office from the contemplated sale of said timber, from which your claim was to have been paid.

While the justness of your account is not questioned, your only recourse is to Congress, where you should present your claim for relief.

Very respectfully,

J. Q. SMITH,
Commissioner.

NATHAN BUTLER, Esq.,
Minneapolis, Minn.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *September 29, 1875.*

SIR: The Department of the Interior having, under date of the 25th instant, authorized this office to accept the proposition of Loren Fletcher, esq., submitted to me on the 20th instant, for the purchase of all burnt trees suitable for lumber, located upon the Red Lake Indian Reservation in Minnesota, within an area of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Clear Water River and the vicinity of said river at the crossing of the same by the wagon-road from Red Lake to White Earth, and which will become worthless unless cut within a short time, you are hereby requested to personally examine and make

an estimate of the quantity of such burnt pine, measuring not less than 14 inches in diameter 24 feet from the stump, embraced within the limits above described.

Having performed this duty, you will please submit to this office, without delay, a report embodying the result of your examination, and specifying the estimated quantity of timber found by you as above.

Your compensation for this service will be at the rate of \$8 per day while actually engaged in its performance, which amount will include every item of expense except the actual cost of railroad travel connected with the performance of your duties in this case; such compensation not to be paid until funds sufficient are received from the sale of said pine.

Please notify this office of your acceptance or non-acceptance of the duties herein contemplated without delay.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

NATHAN BUTLER,
Minneapolis, Minn.

The bill provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall pay to said Butler such sum, not exceeding \$161.30, as he shall find on investigation to be due him.

The committee recommend that the bill do pass.

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