

NIMROD J. SMITH.

JULY 9, 1892.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 6753.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6753) for the relief of Nimrod J. Smith, ex-chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, submit the following report:

The claimant, Nimrod J. Smith, was elected as chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokees, residing in various counties of North Carolina at an official salary of \$500 per annum. He served for ten years, and his duties kept him traveling a large part of the time over a wide section of country. He also served at times as a delegate to Washington, for which distinct and separate service he received the usual compensation. His salary as chief was never paid. At the close of his sixth year of service the Cherokee Nation approved the payment of his salary up to that time, and ordered it paid out of funds held in trust for the tribe in the Treasury of the United States.

Although a quasi-independent tribe, and so recognized by the United States, this band of Cherokees have no power to raise money by taxation, and their only resource to cover this debt is by drawing on the money to their credit in the Federal Treasury, and this they desire to do.

The committee recognizes the justice of the claim and the propriety of its payment, but think under the circumstances that the ex-chief should release the tribe from any claims for the succeeding years' service. They therefore submit a proviso, to be added to line 8, page 2, of the bill, as follows:

Provided, nevertheless, That said Nimrod J. Smith, on payment of the sum so appropriated, shall execute a release in full of all claims whatsoever against said band of Cherokee Indians up to the date of the passage of this act.

And with this amendment recommend the passage of the bill.

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