

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 17, 1874.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MERRIMON submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 243.]

*The Committee on Claims, to whom were referred the bill (S. 243) for the relief of Charles W. Denton, of Oregon, and the accompanying papers, have had the same under consideration, and make the following report:*

That the petitioner alleges that, in the year 1854, he owned a land-claim in the county of Wasco, in the State of Oregon, under the act of Congress entitled "An act to create the office of surveyor-general of the public lands of Oregon, and to provide for the survey, and to make donations to settlers of the public lands," approved September 27, A. D. 1850; that during the months of September and October, A. D. 1854, one Sergeant Dougherty, of the United States Army, placed upon the said land-claim a large number of Indians, and they were kept on the same until the year 1860, when they were removed, &c.; that the said Indians cut and destroyed much of the timber on said land-claim, and prevented the petitioner from using the land, timber, &c.; and for such injuries he claims damages.

The committee are of opinion that it does not appear sufficiently that the petitioner had matured his title to said land, and the evidence he submits in support of his claim is too indefinite to warrant any allowance for such damages as he claims. Indeed, it does not reasonably appear what, if any, damages he sustained. His claim appears to rest mainly on speculative and remote grounds.

The committee, therefore, report back S. bill 243, being "A bill for the relief of Charles W. Denton, of Oregon," and recommend that the same do not pass.