

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 30, 1871.—Ordered to be printed.

MR. SPRAGUE made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany bill S. No. 1273.]

The Committee on Claims, having had under consideration the claim of S. E. Ward, sutler at Fort Laramie, for \$449 35, report :

The claim is in the form of a requisition for supplies furnished five Indian messengers, sent to Spotted Tail, of the Sioux Indians at war with the United States, October 18, 1865. General Wheaton reports that if they had gone empty handed they would have been killed as spies. As it was, Spotted Tail came in; peace was made and has since been maintained. General Dodge, exercising supervision over the troops in Kansas and the Territories, requested the action of General Wheaton in sending the messengers. Wheaton ordered the supplies. The Indian Bureau declines payment because not ordered by agents acting under the Bureau. The Quartermaster declines, also, because the appropriations made by law do not contemplate purchases of this character. There was no Indian Bureau office to be reached at the time. The Secretary of War recommends payment. The committee report a bill of relief, and recommend its passage.