

JAMES B. WOOD.

MARCH 23, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HUTCHINS, from the Committee on Claims, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of James B. Wood, "praying to be paid for mules and oxen lost by him in New Mexico from capture by the Indians," have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report.

That the petitioner avers that he made a verbal contract with Captain A. W. Reynolds, assistant quartermaster of the United States army, to deliver certain oxen and mules to the army in New Mexico, the said Reynolds agreeing that the government would indemnify him against all loss from the Indians. There is no sufficient proof of any such contract, though several witnesses think Captain Reynolds assented to the arrangement. It is a little remarkable that the claimant does not offer Captain Reynolds as a witness in his case, as he would be entirely competent; and from a memorandum among the papers, your committee presume the fact to be that Captain Reynolds, himself, never made any such contract. Your committee, therefore, report back the case, with a recommendation that the prayer of the petition be not granted.