35TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } SENATE. { REP. COM. No. 176.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 13, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SEWARD made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 254.]

The Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the memorial of Townsend Harris, consul general of the United States in Japan, praying for compensation for his services in negotiating a treaty of commerce between the kingdom of Siam and the United States, have had the same under consideration and now report:

It appears from the memorial that, after his appointment as consul general of the United States for Japan, and while preparing to leave the country and repair to his post, Mr. Harris was appointed by the President of the United States, a commissioner to negotiate a treaty of commerce with the kingdom of Siam. That this duty was performed by him in a manner satisfactory to his government at home, and occupied a period of ten months; during which, not having arrived at his consular post, and no special provision being made for such a case under the general law, he could receive no compensation whatever for his services.

These statements are fully sustained by a letter from the Secretary of State, under date of March 2, 1857, in which the Secretary adds: "It is usual to make compensation to commissioners for negotiating treaties, and I recommend that provision be made for paying Mr. Harris for this service."

Concurring entirely with the Secretary of State in this view, the only question remaining to be considered is, as to what amount should be allowed. Referring to the precedents heretofore established, the committee find that it has been usual to allow one year's salary to the officer negotiating a treaty for each treaty negotiated by him, together with a reasonable allowance for the expenses incurred by him, in addition to his regular salary for the time so occupied. Adopting this rule, the committee recommend the allowance of ten thousand dollars as compensation for his services and expenses in negotiating said treaty, which is deemed to be but reasonable, and they report a bill accordingly.

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