

E. A. THOMPSON.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 531.]

JUNE 17, 1864.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HALE, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee of Claims, to whom were referred the petition and accompanying papers of E. A. Thompson, having considered the same, report :

That the petitioner sets forth that in the year 1862 he was the owner of a fruit farm containing about thirty-eight acres, situated upon the high ground back of Covington, in the State of Kentucky.

That in the month of August of said year, while Cincinnati was threatened with a rebel force under Kirby Smith, his said farm was taken possession of by the United States forces, and several regiments, with teams, horses, and mules, were encamped thereon; and that they burned his fences, destroyed his fruit trees, vineyard, and other property, and damaged him to the amount of \$7,500.

The committee, from the testimony before them, have no doubt about the occupancy of the farm by United States troops, and the only difficulty is as to the proper measure of damages sustained by the claimant.

In stating his account against the United States he claims \$3,000 for the destruction of 1,500 peach trees, two years old; \$5 each for pear trees, five years old; and \$10 each for cherry trees, five years old, &c. Now the cost of furnishing and planting these trees did not probably exceed \$25 per 100, and the expense of cultivating fruit trees after once planted is but a trifle, and the committee deem the claim an exorbitant one. The petitioner furnishes several *ex parte* affidavits, going partially to sustain his claim, but they do not consider such testimony of much value, but rather the statements of friendly neighbors, whose judgments are usually based upon the judgment of the claimant.

The committee have reduced the claim from \$7,500 to \$2,450, and report a bill appropriating that amount for the relief of the claimant.

