

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

---

FEBRUARY 9, 1863.—Ordered to be printed.

---

Mr. MORRILL made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany bill S. No. 510.]

In the case of the ship "Argo," the facts are these: The ship was under a charter in 1861 to proceed to City Point, Va.; thence to Bremen with a cargo of tobacco, on foreign account; and thence to Quebec. While loading at City Point the ports of Virginia were blockaded, allowing to owners until the fifteenth of May, 1861, to load and clear their vessels.

The "Argo" left City Point on the twelfth of May, and was proceeding on her voyage to Bremen, and on the fourteenth of May, at Hampton Roads, was seized and taken possession of by the United States flag-officer of the blockading fleet, and sent to New York as prize of war.

The ship was held in custody of officers of the United States at the latter place until the twenty-fourth of May, when she was released, and afterwards returned to the custody of the captain, by order of the Secretary of the Navy, no legal proceedings having been instituted.

The owner of the ship "Argo" presents a claim against the government for money paid in New York, the port to which she was taken, being her expenses, &c., \$2,051 60. For damages of detention eighteen days from her seizure at Hampton Roads on the fourteenth of May, and her discharge and departure on her voyage from New York on the thirty-first of that month, estimated at \$5 50 per ton per month, \$3,557 34. For damages consequent the delay of the ship at New York, whereby she lost her return cargo at Bremen, which was to be taken on a given day, \$3,000. For extra insurance, by reason of being late at the river St. Lawrence, on her return voyage, \$800, and for loss of two anchors and one cable, \$490.

The committee deem a claim for disbursements and expenses in the port of New York, the direct result of her detention by the govern-

ment, and also the damage for detention, should be paid by the government.

The claims for supposed loss of return cargo at Bremen, money paid for insurance, loss of anchors and cable, do not fall within the same principle; the contingency upon which they are based, remote and uncertain, and are not such as the government can recognize as just.

The committee estimate the expenses and disbursements at New York \$1,916 98, and damages for detention eighteen days, at four dollars per ton per month, one thousand and seventy-five tons, \$2,580.

The following papers are made a part of the report : The memorial of the owner ; protest and extension of same ; letters of R. T. McCook ; general clearance of ship ; certificate of the Bremen consul ; letters of minister of Bremen, Secretary of State, Secretary of the Navy, and Commodore Stringham.