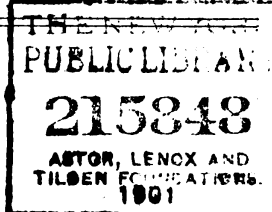


38TH CONGRESS, }
2d Session. }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

{ REPORT
No. 24.



TRADE WITH REBELLIOUS STATES.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 805.]

MARCH 1, 1865.—Ordered to be printed, with testimony taken and to be taken.
MARCH 3, 1865.—Ordered, That ten thousand extra copies be printed for the use of the House.

Mr. E. B. WASHBURNE, from the Committee on Commerce, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Commerce of both houses of Congress, acting as a joint committee, charged with the investigation of the subject of trade with the rebellious States, submit the following report:

On the twentieth day of January last, the House of Representatives directed its Committee on Commerce to inquire into the truth of the report that one G. W. Lane, of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, had received a permit to go to North Carolina and exchange provisions with the rebels for cotton, and report whether there was any authority vested in the Treasury Department to give the right to any one to furnish the rebels with supplies from our lines; and if not, to report such a bill or resolution as would bring the guilty to justice, and protect the interests of the government.

On the 25th day of the said month of January, the House, by another resolution, directed the Committee on Commerce to further inquire into all the facts and circumstances connected with the trade with the rebellious States since the breaking out of the rebellion, whether by permit from the Treasury Department, or otherwise. The committee were thus armed with authority for the fullest investigation of the whole subject of trade with the rebellious States. On the sixth of February, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, the House passed a concurrent resolution, which was agreed to by the Senate on the following day, providing that the Committee on Commerce on the part of the Senate be joined to the Committee on Commerce on the part of the House, in the investigations in which said committee on the part of the House were then engaged under the resolutions of the House of January twentieth and twenty-fifth, in regard to trade with States in rebellion.

The investigation of the subjects committed to the committee has opened up so broad a field of inquiry, and has required the taking of such a mass of testimony, as to render it impossible, with all the diligence they have been able to exercise, to conclude the investigation and have the evidence written out and the full report, on the matters involved, prepared at a sufficiently early day to secure such action on the subject as Congress may deem proper to take before the expiration of its present term. They ask leave, therefore, to submit this as a preliminary and partial report, containing the conclusions arrived at by them from the investigation they have thus far been able to make.

It is the judgment of your committee that the trade which has been carried on with the insurrectionary States since the breaking out of the rebellion, apparently