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ENTRIES OF LAND.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 344.]

APRIL 20, 1844.

Mr. JOHN W. DAVIS, from the Committee on Public Lands, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the communication of the Commissioner of the General Land Office in relation to the entry of certain lands in Mississippi, report:

That the letters marked A and B, herewith submitted, and made a part of this report, will fully explain the grounds of the bill which is herewith reported.

A.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, April 18, 1844.

SIR: After the cession to the United States by the treaty of Pontotoc, in October, 1832, of that body of country in Mississippi, formerly belonging to the Chickasaw Indians, it became necessary for the Government to run the line constituting the southern limits of that cession, and the boundary between it and the country ceded by the Choctaws in 1830.

Much difficulty and delay arising in determining the true position of that line, it was deemed necessary and proper to direct the land officers at Chocoma to withhold from private entry the lands in certain townships on the northern extreme of the body of country ceded by the Choctaws, which had been previously proclaimed for sale, and through which it was thought the line would pass, until the whole matter should be satisfactorily determined. Consequently an instruction to that effect was issued to those officers, bearing date 27th of June, 1834, of which the enclosed paper, marked B, is a copy.

The land officers, however, did not act up to the letter of those instructions, and permitted sales to be made from time to time, amounting to some hundreds in the interdicted townships, and which sales cannot be recognised at this office. To remedy the matter, it is respectfully proposed that an act should be passed to confirm the sales.

To effect this object, I beg leave to submit the enclosed draught entitled "A bill to confirm certain private entries of land in the northwestern land district of Mississippi."

With great respect,

THOMAS H. BLAKE, *Commissioner.*

Hon. J. THOMPSON,
House of Representatives.

B.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, June 27, 1834.

GENTLEMEN: The 13th article of the treaty concluded with the Chickasaw tribe of Indians in Mississippi, on the 22d of October, 1832, describes the boundary between the Chickasaws and Choctaws, as follows :

“ Beginning at the mouth of Oak tibby-haw, and running up said stream to a point, being a marked tree on the old Natchez road, one mile southwardly from Wall’s old place ; thence with the Choctaw boundary, and along it westwardly through the Tunicha old fields, to a point on the Mississippi river, about 28 miles by water, below where the St. Francis river enters said stream on the west side.”

The line has not yet been run, nor am I enabled to state when it will be determined.

I transmit, herewith, a diagram, showing this boundary as represented by a plat forwarded by John Bell, esq., surveyor of the Chickasaw lands. I am, however, of opinion that Mr. Bell’s line (marked with red ink) is erroneous, and that the black dotted line is much nearer the truth.

Assuming the black dotted line to be correct, there have been proclaimed for sale at the land office at Chocchuma eight whole townships, and two fractional townships, which may hereafter be found to lie either wholly or partially in the Chickasaw country, viz :

Townships 24 and 25, of range 4 east.

Townships 24 and 25, of range 5 east.

Townships 24 and 25, of range 6 east.

Townships 24 and 25, of range 7 east.

Fractional townships 28 and 29, of range 5 west.

Until further orders, you will withhold from private entry all the residue of the unsold lands within the limits of the townships and fractional townships above designated.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ELIJAH HAYWARD.

The REGISTER AND RECEIVER,
Chocchuma, Mississippi.