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Report on Use of Pottawatomie Annuities

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 6, 1861.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. FITCH made the following

REPORT.

(To accompany bill H. R. 852.)

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred House bill No. 852, report:

That they have examined the bill, and as far as practicable, the facts upon which it is based. They are of opinion that a number of persons of the character indicated in the bill, are entitled to and have not received a portion of annuities under some of the treaties therein mentioned; that the number of such persons, and the amounts to which they are entitled, can only be determined by a careful and thorough examination, which should be made by the Interior Department. The committee ascertain that the Pottowatomie nation, (residing in Kansas,) out of whose annuities it is proposed by the bill to pay whatever may be found due the Chippewas, Ottawas, and Pottowatomies of Michigan, have been for some time desirous of having an examination into the condition of their accounts with the United States, under various treaty stipulations; that they have made frequent complaints because such examination was not made, and sent a delegation here last winter to urge it, claiming that enough is, and has been for some time, due them from government, independent of the annuities now paid them, to meet all or a considerable portion of the claims of the Michigan Indians. The committee therefore think it but a matter of justice that the examination they desire should be made, with the view of applying the amount due them, if any, to the payment of whatever of the claims, if any, of the Michigan Indians should be found just, without resorting for that purpose to the annuities of the nation. The committee therefore recommend that the bill be amended and passed.