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Report on the Miami Indians

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 19, 1876.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. INGALLS submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 619.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 619) to provide for carrying out, in part, the provisions of the act of 3d of March, 1873, entitled "An act to abolish the tribal relations of the Miami Indians, and for other purposes," (see Statutes, vol. 17, p. 633,) have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report:

The necessity for the passage of the bill under consideration appears from the letter of the Secretary of the Interior of January 26, last, (see H. of R. Doc. 105, of present Congress,) and reference to the laws, &c., cited in the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, accompanying the letter.

From these it is shown that, by an agreement entered into on the 15th day of January, 1872, between the Miami tribe of Indians, then of Kansas, and the Confederated Band of Kaskaskia, Peoria, Piankeshaw, and Wea Indians, of the Indian Territory, the Kaskaskias, &c., were to convey to such of the Miamies as should elect to unite with them, a pro rata share of the lands held by them under the provisions of the treaty of 23d of February, 1867, for which the Miamies agreed to pay, from their tribal funds, a pro rata share of the cost of the acquisition of said lands, together with interest from the date of purchase.

By the act of 3d of March, 1873, (St., 17, 633,) this agreement is ratified, with authority given the Secretary to make such modification in said agreement as justice may seem to require.

By that act, the tribal relations of the Miamies were abolished, and provision made for such as chose to do so to remove to the Indian Territory, and unite with the Kaskaskias, &c., and for such as should elect to become citizens, the mode of doing so was prescribed. All the lands then held by the Miamies were conveyed to the Government in trust, to be sold for the benefit of those interested, and as soon as it could be done with justice to all, the funds of the two tribes were to be consolidated, and thereafter they were to be known as the Peoria and Miami tribes.

Under this agreement, and the act of Congress, the matter was adjusted in 1874.

The number of Miamies who elected to remain as Indians was seventy-two. The number who elected to become citizens was thirty-four. The amount to be paid by the Miamies to the Kaskaskias was ascertained,

as was also the amount to be paid the withdrawing members or citizen-class, less the appraised value of the unsold lands.

The act of 3d of March, 1873, failed to make the appropriations necessary to enable the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the stipulations of the agreement, and the provisions of the act. It is to supply this omission of the act that this legislation is asked for.

The parties interested are all strongly in favor of the passage of the bill: the Kaskaskias, &c., because they want their money, and cannot understand why it is that the Miamies should be allowed to occupy their lands without paying for them; the Miamies, because, under the agreement, they are paying the Kaskaskias double the interest they are receiving on their invested funds; the citizen-class, because they have been compelled to wait for now more than three years for the means upon which they relied to commence their career as citizens, and to them the delay in the payment is a very great hardship.

The sums necessary for these payments are estimated for in the letter of the Secretary, and accompanying report, and contained in the bill.

As the amounts appropriated are simple divisions of Indian funds held in trust by the Government, provided by existing laws to be made, your committee see no reason why they should not be made. They therefore recommend the passage of the bill.