

1-14-1878

## Resolution of Senator Mitchell

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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JANUARY 14, 1878.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. MITCHELL submitted the following

RESOLUTION:

Whereas there are at the present time in the United States not to exceed three hundred thousand Indians, and for whose occupation, use, and benefit there have been set apart, and are for such purpose now held, over three hundred million acres of the public lands of the United States, including the Indian Territory, or about one thousand acres to each man, woman, and child, and from all which lands settlers are excluded, while a white person of twenty-one years of age, whether the head of a family or not, is permitted to homestead or purchase but one hundred and sixty acres, while millions of white and black citizens, with families to support, are without homes of their own, Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Indian Affairs be, and they are hereby, instructed to inquire into the propriety of establishing not to exceed four Indian reservations, to be called Indian Territories, one of which, for the use and occupation of all Indians in the State of Oregon and in Washington and Idaho Territories, shall be located in the country west of the Rocky Mountains known as the Colville Valley; the second, for the occupation and use of all other Indians west of the Rocky Mountains, in some suitable locality west of or in such range of mountains; and the other two, for the use and occupation of all other Indians, to be located in or east of the Rocky Mountain range; and upon which reservations or Territories all reservation Indians in the United States shall be located, with suitable provisions for permitting all who are competent to become citizens, and who will dissolve their tribal relations and devote themselves to agriculture, to acquire under proper restrictions homesteads in suitable quantities on their present reservations; such large reservations or Indian Territories to have a suitable form of government to be established by Congress, which government shall include the right to be represented in Congress by a Delegate to be appointed by the President of the United States, and a superintendent who shall be *ex-officio* governor of such Territory, and which government shall also include the establishment of manual-labor and other schools sufficient for the accommodation and education of all the Indians in such Territory, with a compulsory provision in the organic law of each of such Territories compelling each Indian between certain ages to attend school a given number of months in each year for a certain number of years, with the privilege to all religious denominations of establishing missionary institutions in such Territories in their own way, respectively, except they be not incompatible with the laws of such Territories, and which government shall also include the establishment of a

strong military post in each of such Territories for the protection of both Indians and whites, and the preservation of peace; and also the establishment of suitable courts for the protection of civil rights and for the punishment of crime, as in other Territories; and that all lands now held as Indian reservations in the United States be, as the Indians therein are removed to such Territories, under proper restrictions and with due regard to the rights of the different tribes as to the proceeds arising from their disposition, opened to the millions of homeless white and black citizens of the United States for settlement, and to report to the Senate by bill or otherwise.

*Resolved further,* That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior, with a request that he communicate to the Senate such recommendations in reference to the general proposition of consolidation of Indian agencies, in the form herein suggested or otherwise, and as he may deem pertinent and proper, together with any reports of Indian inspectors, or other officers of the Indian Department, or any other facts specially bearing on the subject.

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