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Title to lands for cemetery purposes

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TITLE TO LANDS FOR CEMETERY PURPOSES.

JUNE 9, 1880.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DEERING, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 3573.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3573) to authorize the Seneca Nation of Indians, of the state of New York, to grant title to lands for cemetery purposes, having had the same under consideration, report as follows:

The Seneca Nation of Indians, of the State of New York, a part of whose people reside on the Allegany Reservation, in the county of Cattaraugus, N. Y., are a civilized people, obtaining their livelihood by agricultural pursuits and maintain educational and religious institutions to a considerable extent, comparing quite favorably with communities which surround them, as an abstract of the report of the United States agent will show. It appears that by act of Congress, on February 19, 1875, they were authorized to lease lands for railroad and village purposes. The commissioners appointed by the President in pursuance of the provisions of the act surveyed and mapped the village of Salamanca, on said reservation (located at the junction of the Erie, Atlantic and Great Western, and Rochester and State Line Railroads), and the lands for the cemetery provided for in the present bill are included within the boundaries of the said village, and designated on the map of the commissioner who made the survey under said act of 1875. The council of this nation of Indians ask the passage of this bill, as will be seen by accompanying resolution, as they desire to provide for their people a place of Christian burial. There appears to be no written provision of law or treaty stipulation that would be violated or disturbed by granting what seems to be the unanimous request both of the whites and the Indians of said Seneca Nation.

Your committee, therefore, report the bill back amendment and recommend that it pass.