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Lake Superior and Mississippi Chippewa Indians

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LAKE SUPERIOR AND MISSISSIPPI CHIPPEWA INDIANS.

JANUARY 8, 1881.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5624.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5624) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to fulfill certain treaty stipulations with the Chippewa Indians of Lake Superior and the Mississippi, and making an appropriation for the same, beg leave to report :

This claim is based upon the ninth article of the treaty of September 30, 1854, between the United States and the Chippewa Indians, which reads as follows :

“The United States agree that an examination shall be made, and all sums that may be found equitably due to the Indians for arrearages of annuity or other things under the provisions of former treaties shall be paid as the chiefs may direct.” (See page 226 Revised Statutes.)

This matter was before the last Congress, and a subcommittee made quite a thorough investigation, but owing to the adjournment was unable to get the subject before a full committee. The Hon. J. H. Stewart, however, made a lengthy report and embodied it in a speech delivered on February 24, 1879 (see Congressional Record of March 1, 1879), to which we would respectfully call your attention.

Your committee would further report that in answer to an inquiry made of the honorable Secretary of the Interior for any information and facts the department might deem of interest in the case, together with the views of the department in the matter, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs addressed a letter, under date of April 20, 1880, to your committee, which is appended to this report and made a part thereof.

The propriety of allowing the difference between coin and currency with interest thereon during the years 1863 and 1864 is questionable, and we therefore do not recommend that part of the bill.

The bill directs the Secretary of the Treasury to place to the credit of the Chippewas of Lake Superior and the Mississippi the sum of \$118,406.29.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs states that, owing to the disbursement of \$982.19 made by his office during the year 1878, this amount has been reduced to \$117,424.10.

On information obtained from the department, supported by the carefully prepared report of the Hon. J. H. Stewart of the last Congress, your committee are of the opinion that said claim is a just and legal one, “excepting the amount for the difference between currency and

coin, with interest thereon during the years 1863 and 1864," and therefore unanimously recommend the passage of the bill, after being amended as follows :

1. By striking out \$118,406.29, in lines 6 and 7, and inserting in lieu thereof \$84,191.81.

2. Also, by striking out all of section 1, after the word "inclusive," in line 12.

3. Also, by striking out in section 2, lines 2 and 3, \$118,406.29, and inserting \$84,191.81.

4. Also, by striking out in section 2, lines 4 and 5, \$38,406.29, and inserting \$4,191.81.

5. And in section 3, lines 1 and 2, by striking out \$118,406.29, and inserting \$84,191.81.

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