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Sioux Indian Reservation west of Big Stone Lake, Dakota

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SIoux INDIAN RESERVATION WEST OF BIG STONE LAKE,
DAKOTA.

MARCH 1, 1882.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 2748.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2748) to authorize the survey of that portion of the Sioux Indian Reservation in the Territory of Dakota, lying west of Big Stone Lake, and making an appropriation therefor, after careful consideration, have amended the same by striking out the word "five" in the last line and inserting the word "four" in lieu thereof, and report the same back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass as amended.

In the Land Office Report for 1881, page 9, we find the following, in relation to the survey of this reservation:

Serious complaints have been addressed to the office in time past by several parties as to the seriously erroneous or wholly fraudulent surveys of the Sioux Indian Reservation west of Big Stone Lake, in Dakota, which complaints, upon examination, have been proved to be only too well founded.

These surveys were made in 1865 by a deputy surveyor, and payment thereof was made from the proceeds of sales of these Indian lands. It is ascertained that no title to lands anywhere within the limits of the reservation can be perfected until a correct survey and subdivision of the lands embraced therein has been made. This work may involve also the resurvey of the west boundary of the reservation.

There being no law authorizing the application of public funds for the prosecution of resurveys of public lands, the resurvey of these lands, if done at all at the expense of the government, must be provided for by act of Congress.

In order therefore to consummate an early adjustment of the difficulties that have grown out of these erroneous surveys and to prevent further complications arising from the same cause, an estimate of \$4,000 was submitted, under date of April 15, 1880, to the Hon. Secretary of the Interior, and by him submitted to the appropriate committee of Congress.

At the instance of the Office of Indian Affairs these lands were proclaimed for sale by the President of the United States during the last fiscal year, but owing to the complicated condition of affairs within the reservation the proclamation was withdrawn during the present fiscal year in order to have correct surveys made of the lands, so that the purchasers of the same can identify their premises and secure titles according to the proper metes and bounds.