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LEASING INDIAN LANDS TO CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES, ETC.

APRIL 24, 1884.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. S. W. PEEL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom were referred sundry memorials of citizens of the Cherokee Nation, and other Indians, complaining of unlawful leasing of large tracts of lands in the Indian Territory and reservations to citizens of the United States for cattle grazing and other purposes, and the inclosure of such lands by wire fences, and the alleged unjust and illegal disbursement and discrimination against the adopted citizens of said nation in certain moneys appropriated by the Forty-seventh Congress, beg leave to submit the following report :

That it appears from Senate Ex. Doc. 54 of the present session of Congress that several million acres of land in the Indian Territory and reservations have been leased by the Indian tribes to citizens of the United States for cattle grazing and other purposes, in violation of the laws of the United States (see Revised Statutes, secs. 2116 and 2118), and that hundreds of miles of wire fences have been constructed around said lands (see Ex. Doc. 54, Forty-eighth Congress, page 148). That said leases have not been approved by the Secretary of the Interior Department (see same Executive Document, pages 1, 126, and 160). That the construction of said fences is in violation of law. (See Revised Statutes, section 2118.)

It also appears from the colored citizens and adopted Shawnees and Delawares of said Cherokee Nation, and not denied by the Cherokee authorities, that in the distribution per capita of the \$300,000 appropriated to the said Cherokee Nation during the second session of the Forty-seventh Congress, all the adopted colored citizens, Shawnees and Delawares, were excluded upon the ground that they were not of Cherokee blood; that said discrimination was in violation of treaty stipulation between said Cherokee Nation and the United States. (See treaty 1866, article 9, Revised Treaties, page 89.)

Your committee are of the opinion that these several causes of complaint are proper subjects for the inquiry of Congress, and to the end that an intelligible and correct understanding may be reached, with a view that proper Congressional relief may be had, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Committee on Indian Affairs, or any subcommittee thereof, in order that they may more fully and thoroughly investigate all matters touching the leasing, subleasing, fencing, and inclosing lands in the Indian Territory and reservations by citizens of the United States, and the disbursement of the \$300,000 appropriated to the Cherokee Nation during the second session of the Forty-seventh Congress, be, and they are hereby, authorized to send for persons and papers and administer oaths, and report the same to this House.