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Indian appropriation bill.

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INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL.

FEBRUARY 13, 1889.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 12578.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, having had under consideration the estimates and the various items of appropriation for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890, and for other purposes, beg leave to submit the following report:

The regular estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890, as reported from the Department, amounts to the sum of \$5,475,410.50. This amount is some less than the estimates for same purpose last year.

The amount appropriated in the present bill, taken from regular estimates, amounts to \$4,924,524.74. The additional items added to the bill from special estimates and recommendations to pay awards for the Chickasaws and Pottawatomies and some other smaller items swell the amount to \$5,439,033.05, yet the bill is \$76,077.45 less than last year, exclusive of the Choctaw judgment, amounting to near \$3,000,000, paid off last year. The Chickasaw and Pottawatomie awards contained in this bill have been fully investigated and the liability of the Government permanently fixed, and as both claims are bearing interest and growing larger with each succeeding year, your committee think it both wise and just that these demands be paid off.

The Delaware Indians, now part of the Cherokee people, Indian Territory, have a large sum in the Treasury of the United States to their credit, upon which the Government is paying an annual interest of from 5 to 7 per cent.

Said Indians are well civilized and are industrious, thrifty people, and to enable them to improve their homes and better their condition they have petitioned Congress to make per capita distribution of said fund. As this will be an annual saving to the Government of over \$46,000, and as the beneficiaries are as competent to receive and receipt for the same as an average citizen of the United States, and the same being strongly recommended by the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior (by Senate Ex. Doc. 21, second session Forty-ninth Congress, and re-affirmed to this, etc.), your committee have placed a clause in the bill for that purpose.

In view of the great necessity of acquiring a full and complete title to what is known as the Cherokee outlet in Indian Territory and to have all the country occupied by the five civilized tribes in said Terri-

tory attached to and become a part of our common country and to incorporate the people of said tribes into our own civilization, your committee have placed a clause in this bill authorizing the President of the United States to appoint a commission to open negotiations with the said five tribes for this purpose.

Also, in view of the great necessity of reducing the Great Sioux Reservation in Dakota and dividing the remainder into smaller reservations, we have in said bill authorized the President to appoint a commission to negotiate with the Sioux for that purpose, in each case the work of said commission to be subject to ratification by Congress.

In conclusion, we desire to say that we have pursued the same policy adopted by us in the last appropriation bill, *i. e.*, to decrease Government support to such of the Indians as are being fed from the public Treasury, and increase the facilities of such Indians to support themselves.

We recommend that the bill do pass.