

3-1-1890

Quapaw Indians

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 559, 51st Cong., 1st Sess. (1890)

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QUAPAW INDIANS.

MARCH 1, 1890.—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. 7662.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred House bill No. 5426, providing for the allotment of lands in severalty to the Quapaw Indians in the Indian Territory, have examined the same and submit the following report:

The tribe of Quapaw Indians, consisting at the present time of one hundred and ninety-three members, as shown by a list approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 8, 1890, live in the extreme northeast corner of the Indian Territory, on their diminished reservation, consisting of 56,685.41 acres of land, located on both sides of Spring River. West of said river the land is almost entirely well watered prairie, and on the east side mostly land that is heavily timbered and very rocky. It is good grazing land, but largely unfit for cultivation.

Said Quapaw Indians are well civilized, mostly farmers, quiet and orderly, and well qualified to take care of their own interests.

Under the provisions of the treaty of May 13, 1833 (7 Stat., 424), they were granted 150 sections of land to be patented to them by the United States.

No patent was ever issued to said Indians, but 82,808.23 acres of land were set apart for their use and occupation; and so far only was the treaty of 1833 ever carried into effect by the United States.

By the treaty of February 13, 1867 (15 Stat., 514) the Indians ceded to the United States, for value, that portion of the land which had been set apart to them, known as the half-mile strip in Kansas, aggregating 7,600.32 acres, and also 18,522.50 acres in the Indian Territory. They now have and hold 56,685.41 acres of land, which it is proposed by the bill under consideration to allot and sell.

It will be seen from these figures that, according to the provision of the treaty of 1833, the Indians are entitled to 13,191.77 acres of land in addition to that which has been given them.

In the opinion of your committee these Indians are entitled, according to their desire, to have said 56,685.41 acres of land allotted so as to give to each member of the tribe in severalty 200 acres, and to have the remainder sold for their benefit in the most expeditious and advantageous manner possible.

The reported bill guards the land so to be allotted from alienation or forfeiture for the period of twenty-five years, and provides for the sale of the surplus in such a way as to secure to the Indians its full

value, and at the same time to vest in actual settlers only the ultimate title thereto.

It is belived also that the Indians are entitled to have their claim for said 13,191.77 acres of land which was guarantied them by the treaty of 1833 adjudicated by some competent tribunal, and with that purpose in view, and also of providing a means for the adjustment of several minor claims made against the United States, a suit should be authorized, in which all controversies between the Indians and the United States can be definitely settled in the manner in which matters of that kind are usually determined.

Your committee therefore recommend the passage of the accompanying bill, which is a substitute for that referred to it.

C