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Admission of Indian Territory

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 1927, 52nd Cong., 1st Sess. (1892)

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ADMISSION OF INDIAN TERRITORY.

JULY 16, 1892.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany Mis. Doc. 325.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs have had under consideration a resolution introduced by Mr. Breckinridge, of Arkansas, entitled "A resolution to provide for the admission of the Indian Territory into the Union as a State," and they return said resolution to the House with the following report:

The original resolution provides that the Committee on Indian Affairs shall inquire into the condition and sentiment of the people of the Indian Territory with reference to the admission of the Territory into the Union as a State. It also provides that the committee shall consider whether the Territory shall be divided into two States, and that in conducting its inquiries it shall be authorized to send for persons and papers, to send a subcommittee to the Territory, to employ a stenographer, and to compel the attendance of witnesses. Also, it contemplates an inquiry into an adjustment of all obligations and relations existing between the Federal Government and the Indian tribes of the Territory.

The obvious policy of the United States is to bring all the territory within its limits, with the exception of the District of Columbia, to Statehood. The status of the Indian Territory is an anomaly in our political system. The Federal Government maintains a certain jurisdiction and a court there; and, under treaty rights, the Indians have a form of sovereignty. Though a part of the United States, and in touch with the Federal Government in many ways, it is not joined in perfect union, and it is without a vote or a Delegate in Congress.

The population of the Territory consists, according to the last census, of 179,321 persons, and it has 1,046 miles of railroads.

By way of comparison it may be stated that the population of Nevada is 45,761, with 925 miles of railroads, and that of Wyoming is 60,705, with 942 miles of railroads.

This Territory is bounded on the north by Kansas, on the east by Missouri and Arkansas, and on the south by Texas, all populous States. Its people are said to be far advanced in all the attributes that fit a people for Statehood. The growth of the country calls for as early an assimilation of this Territory to the balance of our country as circumstances will permit.

In view of these facts the committee think that such an inquiry as the resolution contemplates is necessary and should be beneficial at

this time. They report the accompanying resolution in lieu of the original, and recommend its adoption.

The only material changes in the resolution as originally submitted, and the one now favorably reported, is the direction to report to the House at its next session, and specific provision of not exceeding \$—— is made to defray the expenses of the inquiry.

Resolution recommended to the House of Representatives by the Committee on Indian Affairs for adoption.

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the Committee on Indian Affairs be directed to inquire fully into the condition and sentiment of the people of the Indian Territory with reference to the admission of that Territory into the Union as a State.

2. The committee shall complete this inquiry at the earliest day practicable; it shall consider what division of the Territory, if any, is desired, and in the discharge of its duties it is authorized to send for persons and papers, to compel the attendance of witnesses, to employ a stenographer, and to send a subcommittee to the Territory during the coming vacation of Congress.

3. The committee shall consider all property or other questions that may need to be adjusted between the Territory or the inhabitants thereof and the United States Government, and it shall make its report to the House at the second session of this Congress.

4. For the purpose of conducting this inquiry there is hereby appropriated out of the contingent fund of the House the sum of \$2,500, or so much thereof as may be necessary, the same to be paid upon the warrant of the chairman of the subcommittee.