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ALLOTMENT OF LANDS AMONG CERTAIN INDIAN TRIBES.

JULY 23, 1892.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 9640.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs submitted the following report and the accompanying bill, as a substitute for House bill 8368, referred to them, and the committee recommend its passage.

Within the Quapaw Agency, situated in the Indian Territory, at the angle formed by the southern line of Kansas and the western line of Missouri, are the following tribes and bands of Indians:

The Western Miamis and confederated bands of Weas, Piankeshaws, and Kaskaskias, comprising about 75 persons, owning an area of 17,083 acres of land.

The Peorias have about 166 of population and 33,218 acres of land.

These tribes and bands have community interest in all the lands held by them.

The Ottawas have about 155 of population and 14,860 acres of land.

The Modocs have about 68 of population and 4,040 acres of land.

The Eastern Shawnees have about 80 population and 13,048 acres of land.

The Senecas have about 273 of population and 51,958 acres of land.

The Wyandottes have about 291 of population and 21,406 acres of land.

The Quapaws have about 200 of population and 56,685 acres of land.

The lands of all these tribes are adjoining, without any intervening areas, and are held under treaties and contracts conveying absolute title to them, subject to the usual twenty-five years' restriction as to sales by the Indians, taxation, and forced sales of their lands.

These tribes have practically selected their lands in equal subdivisions and would be able to complete the allotment so as to secure to every Indian his just proportion of the tribal lands in severalty if they had organized tribal legislatures to provide laws to ratify and make final such allotments.

In the absence of such lawmaking powers, the Secretary of the Interior has proceeded to enforce the Indian severalty law, known as the "Dawes act" in some of these reservations.

The provisions of the bill herewith reported cover all the lands in the respective tribes located within the Quapaw Agency that have not been allotted in severalty. The Indians of all these tribes are self-supporting, and have made such progress in education as to be qualified for useful and creditable citizenship of the United States. Owning their lands

in fee simple, for which they have paid a great price in the surrender of lands in their original reservations to the United States, and all of them having homes on their respective locations, the committee consider that it was due to them that in framing this law they should consult the wishes of the Indians as to the manner of disposing of the tribal domain.

The bill reported by the committee, in all essential particulars, conforms to the wishes of the people of the several tribes as to the disposal of their property. Their consent to passing from under the tribal authority into the civil government of the Territory of Oklahoma is deliberate and cheerful after a thorough and wise consideration of the importance of the change in their political relations and of the duties imposed upon them by the new situation.

It may be that the taxation they are able to bear, as contributors to the support of the Territorial government, will not be entirely just to other communities in that Territory. If such a condition should be found hereafter to exist, it will only be just that a proper assistance should be given to the Territory by the United States, until the lands allotted to the Indians become alienable and taxable. The policy of exempting lands allotted to Indians from taxation and forced sale, as well as voluntary alienation, is a necessary part of the plan for introducing them safely and gradually into the full advantage and responsibility of citizenship of the United States.

As a matter of public economy it is greatly to the benefit of the Government that these Indians should be self-supporting and prosperous. In these respects they are in marked and pleasing contrast to many thousands of Indians who are equally able to work and to provide for themselves, who still rely solely upon the Government for food and raiment.

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