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Agreement with Indians on Siletz Reservation

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AGREEMENT WITH INDIANS ON SILETZ RESERVATION.

MARCH 2, 1894.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of Union and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 3419.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3419) to ratify and confirm an agreement with the Alsea and other bands of Indians located upon the Siletz Reservation, in the State of Oregon, and to make appropriation for carrying the same into effect, beg leave to report as follows:

The Siletz Indian Reservation in Oregon is one of the oldest Indian reserves west of the Rocky Mountains, and the Indians, numbering 568, are among the most advanced in the arts of civilization. For many years they have cultivated their own lands, and largely constructed their own houses, and have manufactured their own lumber. They have encouraged education among their children in the agency school, and were almost a unit in favor of the allotment of their lands in severalty, which allotment has now been made, and, by agreement made with the Indians October 31, 1892, they have agreed to cede and relinquish to the United States their claim and title to all of the unallotted lands within the limits of the reservation, excepting as to 5 sections of land which are reserved from sale, with the right to the Indians to cut and manufacture the timber thereon for their own use and for sale, under such rules as the Secretary of the Interior shall prescribe.

The unallotted lands amount to 175,000 acres, and there is agreed to be paid therefor \$142,600, which is payable as follows: One hundred thousand dollars is to be deposited in the Treasury to the credit of the Indians, which shall bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, the said interest to be paid annually. The balance of the principal shall be divided among the Indians payable to those now of age, to wit, males of 21 years and females of 18 years, and thereafter to such as shall come of age, at the rate of \$75 to each person.

The bill has been favorably reported by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and by the Secretary of the Interior, and recommended as being to the advantage of the Indians as well as to the Government, the Commissioner saying:

By the terms of said agreement the Government contracts to pay the Indians \$142,600 for over 175,000 acres of land. These 175,000 acres are to be offered to the public at \$1.50 per acre, although valued by the General Land Office at not less than \$2.50 per acre, and will return an estimated receipt of \$263,500, leaving a profit to the Government of \$120,000. It would, therefore, appear that the Govern-

ment has much to gain and nothing to lose by the ratification of the agreement without amendment and the making of the appropriations necessary to carry the same into effect.

The lands are described to be hilly and mountainous, with intervening small valleys, the latter of which are all occupied by the Indians. There is no railway passing through the lands, otherwise they would be more valuable. For grazing purposes and for the scattering timber on the lands they will readily sell for \$1.50 per acre. Of the money provided for by this bill no part of the same will really be paid out of the Treasury, as the \$100,000 will remain in the Treasury as a trust fund, while the \$42,600 will be realized from the sale of the excess lands before it becomes due.

Your committee, therefore, recommend the passage of the bill with the following amendments:

Amend section 2 by striking out all after the word "shall," in line 24, and insert the following:

At the time of making his original entry pay the sum of 50 cents per acre in addition to the fees now required by law, and at the time of making final proof shall pay the further sum of \$1 per acre, final proof to be made within five years from the date of entry, and three years actual residence on the land shall be established by such evidence as is now required in homestead proofs, as a prerequisite to title or patent.

SEC. 3. Within twenty days after the passage of this bill the President shall issue his proclamation declaring all lands in said Siletz reservation not required for the purposes of allotments to the Indians on said reservation entitled thereto, and fix a day in such proclamation when the surplus land shall be open to entry, not later than forty days from the date of the proclamation.