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United States courts in Idaho

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UNITED STATES COURTS IN IDAHO.

FEBRUARY 13, 1892.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

MR. EZRA B. TAYLOR, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 626.]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 626) to provide the times and places for holding terms of the United States courts in the State of Idaho, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to report the same, with an additional section as an amendment, with a favorable recommendation.

This bill provides the times and places for holding the United States courts in the State of Idaho. Court is now held only at Boise City, capital of the State. The bill reported provides three places in the district for holding court, and gives each place two terms a year.

It is proposed to hold the terms for the northern part of the State at Moscow, in the county of Latah. The accommodations are ample, and the place is connected by rail with the extreme northern and southern portion of the State. It is 500 miles from Moscow to Boise City. Litigants in the United States court from the northern part of Shoshone and Kootenai counties and from Idaho County are now obliged to travel from 600 to 700 miles. There are two Indian reservations in northern Idaho. Numerous petty cases are constantly arising under the statute against selling liquor to Indians; timber trespass cases, both civil and criminal, from this section of the State are presented at every term; while the calendar is crowded with mining cases from three of these counties, arising under the mining laws of the United States. The distance is so great that the poor man is unable to protect his property rights because of his inability to guarantee the expenses, while the persons accused of petty offenses, or settlers charged with timber trespass or other offenses connected with the public lands, are utterly unable to make the long journey and be subjected to the great expense arising from the trial and the incidents thereto. Indeed, it amounts to a practical denial of justice. The expense to the Government in paying mileage and per diem to jurors and witnesses which would be saved by this change would more than pay the rent and provide facilities for holding court at the places named.

The same statement will apply to Blackfoot, although the distances are not quite so great.

Both Moscow and Blackfoot are county seats, and each place has a commodious court-house, in which, no doubt, quarters can readily be obtained.

The committee recommend the addition of the following section, and that this bill so amended pass:

SEC. 7. That no action, suit, proceeding, information, indictment, recognizance, bail bond, or other process in either of said courts shall abate or be rendered invalid by reason of the change of time in the holding of the terms of said courts, but the same shall be deemed to be returnable to, pending, and triable at the terms herein provided for.

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