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[Report Submitted by Mr. Carter]

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 11, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. CARTER, from the Committee on Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1743.]

The proposed Flathead land district is situate in the northwest corner of the State of Montana, and embraces about 5,500,000 acres of land, of which area about 1,000,000 acres have been surveyed.

The pressing necessity for the establishment of this land district arises from the fact that the settlers are separated from the land office at Missoula on the line of regular means of communication, by a distance of over 400 miles, it being necessary, following the line of railroad travel, to go from Kalispell, in the State of Montana, to Spokane, in the State of Washington, and thence eastward along the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad to Missoula. The distance from Kalispell to Missoula by wagon road across the Flathead Indian Reservation is about 130 miles. The wagon roads over this route are not well maintained, and a portion of the season are practically impassable.

Flathead County, Mont., which is practically all embraced in the proposed district, is well settled, highly favored with water, timber and first-class agricultural land, and has a thrifty, progressive, and constantly increasing population.

In the judgment of the committee, and in conformity with the recommendation of the Department, the bill should be amended by striking out all of section 1 after the word "follows" on line 4, page 1, to and including the word "beginning" on line 25, page 2, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Beginning at a point on the national boundary line where the same would be intersected by the range line between ranges fourteen and fifteen, west of the Montana principal meridian when projected (this line being the present boundary between the Helena and Missoula land districts); thence south on said range line between ranges fourteen and fifteen west to the southeast corner of township twenty-two north, range fifteen west; thence west on township line between townships twenty-one and twenty-two north, to the southwest corner of township twenty-two north, range twenty-three west; thence north on range line between ranges twenty-three and twenty-four west to the sixth standard parallel north; thence west on said standard parallel to the southwest corner of township twenty-five north, range twenty-six west; thence north on range line between ranges twenty-six and twenty-seven west to northeast corner of township twenty-six, north, range twenty-seven west; thence west on township line between townships twenty-six and twenty-seven north to the northeast corner of township twenty-six north, range thirty west; thence north on range line between ranges twenty-nine and thirty west to northeast corner of township twenty-seven north, range thirty west; thence west on township line between townships twenty-seven and twenty-eight north to the northwest corner of township twenty-seven north, range thirty one west; thence north on range line between ranges thirty-one and thirty-two west to the seventh standard parallel north; thence west along the seventh standard parallel north to the western boundary of the State; thence north on said boundary line to the northwest corner of the State on the national boundary line on the forty-ninth parallel north latitude, and thence east on said national boundary line to the place of beginning be,

And as thus amended, the committee recommend that the bill do pass.