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Cities and towns in the Cherokee Strip, Oklahoma, to purchase public lands, etc.

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CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE CHEROKEE STRIP, OKLAHOMA,
TO PURCHASE PUBLIC LANDS, ETC.

AUGUST 9, 1894.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

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

ADVERSE REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 5470.]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5470) to authorize legally organized cities and towns in the Cherokee Strip, Oklahoma Territory, to purchase public lands for cemetery purposes, have had the same under consideration and report it back with the recommendation that it do not pass, for the reasons stated in the following letter from the Secretary of the Interior :

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, March 12, 1894.

SIR: In response to your letter of the 14th ultimo, inclosing copy of House bill No. 5470, "To authorize the legally organized cities and towns in the Cherokee Strip, Oklahoma Territory, to purchase public lands for cemetery purposes," I transmit herewith a report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office relative to said bill.

While I have no serious objection to urge against the passage of the bill, so far as it makes special provision for the purchase of public lands for cemetery purposes by cities and towns in the Cherokee Strip, yet I am of the opinion that the existing law having general application makes ample provision for all the purposes contemplated by this bill. In my judgment, however, so much of the bill as includes sections 13, 16, 33, and 36 in each township as lands subject to such purchase is objectionable, inasmuch as these sections were reserved by law for specific purposes named in the act; and I see no reason for diverting said lands to other uses.

Very respectfully,

HOKE SMITH,
Secretary.

HON. THOMAS C. MCRAE,
Chairman of Committee on the Public Lands, House of Representatives.