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Lands necessary for public improvements in cities and towns in Indian Territory.

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LANDS NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN
CITIES AND TOWNS IN INDIAN TERRITORY.

MARCH 21, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3720.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3720) authorizing cities and towns in the Indian Territory to secure, by condemnation or otherwise, lands necessary for public improvements, having had the same under consideration, report it back with a recommendation that it pass.

The legislation sought will enable the people of cities and towns in the Indian Territory to construct systems of waterworks for their respective communities. It provides that sufficient land may be condemned for the occupancy of water mains, pumping stations, sewers, etc., in all, an inconsiderable quantity.

Within the region affected by this measure lack of wholesome water is a serious obstacle to material progress. Wells are impracticable because of the great depth of the underlying water stratum and the deleterious quality of the water when obtained. Under existing conditions the inhabitants depend largely upon stored supplies of rain water, accumulated in cisterns and tanks.

They ask, under the provisions of the bill reported by your committee, authority to connect their communities with adjacent streams, from which they will be enabled to draw abundant supplies of pure water and construct sewers through which they may rid themselves of unsanitary accumulations.

The measure is proposed in the interest of the health and comfort of the people of the Indian Territory towns and cities, and it is the opinion of your committee that it should become a law.