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PROTECTION OF TIMBER IN THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

JANUARY 10, 1899.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 11218.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11218) to enable the Secretary of the Interior to protect the timber in the Indian Territory, having had the same under consideration, return the same to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

The bill was referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and to the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary approves the bill in the following language:

SIR: H. R. 11218 transmitted with your letter of the 19th ultimo was referred to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs for consideration and early report. I am now in receipt of his report dated the 9th instant, in which he states that he sees "no objections to the passage of the bill." A copy of said report is inclosed herewith and the Department concurs in the statement of the Commissioner.

Respectfully,

THOS. RYAN, *Acting Secretary.*

Hon. JAMES SHERMAN,
Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Through omission or oversight in the provisions of the bill passed at the second session Fifty-fifth Congress for the protection of the people of the Indian Territory, no provision was made for the imposition and collection of proper royalties on timber in said Territory and for the protection of the same. This bill is to meet this necessity. It is believed by your committee that this power is not only necessary, but proper to be vested in the Secretary of the Interior to enable the Government to protect the timber in said Territory, and to enable him to regulate the cutting and manufacture of the same in such manner and to such extent as will not retard the growth of the country and at the same time secure to the tribes the payment of proper royalties.