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Right of way through certain lands in the former Nez Perces Reservation.

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RIGHT OF WAY THROUGH CERTAIN LANDS IN THE
FORMER NEZ PERCES RESERVATION.

JANUARY 24, 1899.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CURTIS, of Kansas, from the Committee on Indian Affairs,
submits the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 11685.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs having had under consideration
the bill (H. R. 11685) granting the right of way through certain lands
in the former Nez Perces Indian Reservation in the State of Idaho,
report the same favorably and recommend its passage.

The opening of the original Nez Perces Indian Reservation has been
followed by settlement of several thousand white settlers upon the lands
thus restored, and, although the country has heretofore been remote from
railroads, such extensive settlements have now stimulated active rail­
road construction to such extent that the committee believes that the
bill as introduced and reported, in granting permission to all railroad
companies desiring to construct roads through the diminished agency
reservations and the lands of individual allottees, is in the public inter­
est rather than the passage of special bills for particular corporations.

This bill requires the maps of route to be approved by the Secretary
of the Interior, and the compensation to be paid for such right of way
to such Indian allottees must also be fixed by that official. In this
instance the committee believes that the compensation to be paid as
required by the Secretary would exceed what would be allowed by a
local court, and without expense to the Indians. One railroad is now
built to the line of these lands and must go through the present season
to enable the settlers to plant and harvest much larger crops, which can
be carried out for them by rail during the coming fall, whereas they
are now required, in some instances, to haul their farm products 60
miles or more over mountain roads.