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Protection of Indian Tribes from trespassers.

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PROTECTION OF INDIAN TRIBES FROM TRESPASSERS.

MAY 31, 1892.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 9053.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred House bill 6799, beg leave to report:

The evident intent of the bill was to obtain additional protection for the Indian tribes in possession, either through existing or future treaties, from trespassers who without color of title, either from said tribes or the United States, enter on such land for the purpose of settlement. It appears that on the land of the Chickasaw Nation, especially, there are several thousands of trespassers who defy removal. It is true that section 2118 of the Revised Statutes (act of June 30, 1834, Vol. IV, Stat. L., p. 703) provides a penalty for such trespass by fine, and directs the removal of such trespassers by the United States troops; but such remedy has proved to be ineffectual because of the poverty of the offenders.

The committee, while conceding the necessity of additional legislation in the premises, providing for a more efficient penalty, do not approve of the bill in the form it assumes, since it leaves no discretion in the court to grade the punishment of offenders, and does not define the offense with sufficient precision. They therefore submit as a substitute the accompanying bill, in which those defects are sought to be remedied, and recommend its passage.