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Kettle River Valley Railway Company.

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KETTLE RIVER VALLEY RAILWAY COMPANY.

JUNE 4, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 4048.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred Senate bill No. 4048, having had the same under consideration, respectfully submit the following report:

The bill provides for granting a right of way to the Kettle River Valley Railway Company through the north half of the Colville Indian Reservation, so called, the same being territory restored to the public domain by the act of July 2, 1892, except for agricultural entry, said right of way being to the extent of 100 feet on each side of the center line of said right of way, and the line of railroad to connect at one or more points on the international boundary line with any road organized under the laws of the Dominion of Canada or Province of British Columbia. The company proposing to build this line is composed of substantially the same persons who have heretofore built the Spokane Falls and Northern Railway, of which the proposed line is to be a branch, and there is no reason to doubt either the intention or the ability of the company to build the road without delay. Since the restoration of this territory to the public domain several flourishing mining camps and important towns have been built up in the north half of said reservation, and the construction of this road has become of vital importance to the development of that section.

The committee deem it wise to add the following amendment to the bill:

SEC. 2. That any damages or injuries occasioned to private property, whether the same be a vested or inchoate right to the property injured, whether the same belong to a white man or an Indian, shall be ascertained and compensation made therefor in accordance with the laws of Washington relating to the exercise of eminent domain or the taking of private property for public use.

With the addition of this recommendation the committee recommend that said bill do pass.