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Missouri and Kansas Telephone Company.

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MISSOURI AND KANSAS TELEPHONE COMPANY.

JUNE 21, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10509.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred House bill 10509, submit the following report:

The bill grants the Missouri and Kansas Telephone Company the right to construct and maintain telephone lines and offices for general business purposes in the Ponca, Otoe, and Missouria reservations, in the Territory of Oklahoma.

In its general provisions and restrictions it is identical with House bill 10476 which has heretofore been reported to the House by this committee, and which is a general authorization to telegraph and telephone companies to construct and maintain lines and offices in the Indian Territory. Under the bill here reported the companies are required to pay annually to the nation or tribe through which their lines are built the sum of \$5 for each 10 miles of line so constructed and maintained. It also provides for the payment of any damage to any property or improvements by the construction of the line and for a method of ascertaining such damages by a board of arbitrators, and the line can not be built until such damages have been paid or tendered. The right to regulate tolls and charges on such lines is reserved to Congress.

The committee recommend that the same do pass with the following amendments:

After the word "Oklahoma," in line 7, insert "subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, and."

In line 1, page 3, strike out the word "lines" and insert the word "company."