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Clearwater Short Line Railway Company.

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CLEARWATER SHORT LINE RAILWAY COMPANY.

FEBRUARY 16, 1899.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 5427.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 5427) granting a right of way for the Clearwater Short Line Railway Company through the agency and other reserved lands of the Nez Perces Indian Reservation in the State of Idaho, submit the following report thereon:

The Clearwater Short Line Railway is a branch of the Northern Pacific Railroad, now under active construction, extending from Missoula, Mont., westward across the States of Idaho and Washington to the Northern Pacific main line at Pasco Junction. The road will open a large and rich agricultural region now far distant from rail communication, and afford the many thousands of settlers within the former Nez Perces Reservation and adjacent region direct rail facilities for reaching markets with their farm products. The road has reached in actual construction the lands of the Indian allottees and the agency reservation, and hence the imperative need of present legislation to permit such construction to proceed without delay.

With the authority to cross the reserved lands and allotments given by the pending bill the road can be completed in ample time to move the coming season's crops, and in anticipation thereof the numerous settlers in the region reached thereby have extended the area of cultivation and will be dependent upon this railroad to move their large crops next fall.

The bill is drawn upon the approved lines of such legislation long followed by the committee and the House, and fully and carefully guards all the interests of both the Indians and the public.