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Report : Mr. Pettit

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 30, 1854.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PETTIT made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 167.]

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition of D. J. Campan, in behalf of his father Joseph Campan, praying for a patent for a certain tract of land, have had the same under consideration, and directed me to submit the following report:

The committee find that commissioners were appointed, under an act of Congress, to investigate and confirm the claims of persons in possession and occupancy of lands lying in that part of the territory of Michigan, to which the Indian title had been extinguished, and that said commissioners did confirm to Pierre Bonhomme a certain tract of land, in the following words: "The commissioners decide that this tract be confirmed to the extent claimed, viz: sixteen arpens by forty, French measure, commencing at a point on the south border of the river Au Delude, about two miles from its confluence with the river St. Clair; and thence up stream, upon said river Delude, sixteen arpens; thence at right angles with said river Delude, to the distance of forty arpens; thence in the rear, sixteen arpens; thence, to the place of beginning, by a line, forty arpens in length. The commissioners would here advert to the fact, that this tract appears to be covered by a reservation made to the Chippewa nation of Indians. It is therefore submitted to the revising powers, if a change of the location of this tract be not necessary or advisable."

On the 17th April, 1828, by an act of Congress, the confirmations of the commissioners were confirmed, and patents ordered to be issued for the said lands. But in view of the qualifications and recommendations of the said commissioners attached to their confirmation, and from the fact that a portion of said lands were covered by a reservation to the Chippewa nation of Indians, the Commissioner of the General Land Office refused to issue a patent to said Bonhomme for said lands.

The title of the Chippewa nation of Indians in said lands has been extinguished, and is now vested in the United States, so that no barrier exists against the conveyance of said lands, by patent, to the said Pierre Bonhomme, or the person claiming under him.

On the 23d day of December, 1833, the said Pierre Bonhomme, conveyed by deed, properly executed and recorded, (as appears by a

duly certified copy accompanying said petition,) all his right, title, and interest in and to the said tract of land, to Joseph Campau.

Under the decision of the Commissioner of the General Land Office a patent cannot be issued under the act of the 17th April, 1828, "without further legislation and express authority of law."

The committee, in view of the foregoing facts, have directed me to report the accompanying bill for the relief of Joseph Campau; and respectfully recommend its passage.