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Report : Mr. Clayton

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 6, 1875.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. CLAYTON submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 570.]

The Committee on Territories, to whom was referred the bill (S. 570) to organize the Territory of Oklahoma, and for the better protection of the Indian tribes therein, and for other purposes, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report:

The committee recommend that the further consideration of the bill be postponed until the second Monday in December next.

From the information your committee have been able to obtain relating to affairs in the Indian Territory, they are impressed with the belief that the welfare of the Indian tribes, the better administration of justice, and the interests of the United States alike demand additional legislation looking toward the better government of said Territory and the civilization of the Indians.

Before entering upon the consideration of a subject of such magnitude and importance, it seems desirable that the Senate should take some steps to procure the fullest and most reliable information relating to affairs in the said Territory, the sentiment and desires of the lawful inhabitants, and their capacity for self-government under a territorial form.

In furtherance of this idea, your committee would most respectfully recommend that the whole subject be placed in the hands of a special committee of the Senate, with authority to visit the Indian Territory, and with such powers as this body shall think proper to confer upon them.

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