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Judicial District of Oklahoma.

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JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA.

JANUARY 26, 1875.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BENJAMIN F. BUTLER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 4041.]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4041) to establish the judicial district of Oklahoma, having considered the subject referred to them, beg leave to report :

The first requisite of civilization is the establishment of impartial tribunals for the administration of justice, which administration is indeed at once the exponent of civilization and the great educator of the people over whom its powers extend by its requirements and blessings. It can hardly be expected that any people, especially a semi-civilized one, will become peaceful and quiet and study the arts of peace and civilization, unless they can be adequately protected in their property and persons. Such protection, heretofore, by the laws of the United States, has been very imperfectly extended over any portion of the Indian Territory.

It is believed by your committee that that part of the Territory described in the bill before us is occupied by Indians who have so far changed from the habits of savage tribes and become settled in habitations, rather than nomadic, that with them the experiment of the organization of a court of justice, if experiment it may be called, will be made with safety and profit, as well to the United States as to the Indians.

The provisions of the bill referred to us seem to give ample and proper machinery for the administration of justice between the Indians and those who shall come among them, and between tribes of Indians and other persons resident in such Territory, and, so far as your committee can determine, the bill is substantially free from objection.

Your committee report it back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

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