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### Pawnee Indian lands in Nebraska.

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H.R. Rep. No. 140, 43rd Cong., 2nd Sess. (1875)

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## PAWNEE INDIAN LANDS IN NEBRASKA.

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FEBRUARY 11, 1875.—Recommitted to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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

## REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 4683.]

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred Ex. Doc. No. 36, being the letter of the Secretary of the Interior transmitting his recommendation for the passage of an act providing for the removal of the Pawnee Indians from the State of Nebraska, for the sale of their reservation, and their settlement in the Indian Territory, having considered the same, make the following report:*

An act of Congress was passed and approved June 10, 1872, providing for the survey and sale, with the consent of the Indians, of a portion of the Pawnee Indian reservation, in the State of Nebraska, not exceeding 50,000 acres, to be taken from that part of the reservation lying south of Loup Fork. The Pawnees, in open council, consented to this sale, and the portion of the reservation mentioned has been surveyed and appraised, though not yet offered for sale.

During the autumn of 1873, a delegation of 360 of this tribe visited the Wichita agency and reservation, in the southwestern portion of the Indian Territory, and meeting with a friendly reception there, an invitation was extended by the affiliated bands there established to the whole of the Pawnee Indians to remove to the Indian Territory. This invitation was received favorably by the Pawnees. The climate and soil of the Indian Territory are superior for agricultural purposes. The crops on the Pawnee reservation had been lost by grasshoppers, and these facts had created a desire in the tribe to remove and make their future home in the Indian Territory. Finally, their dissatisfaction became so great that about one-fourth of the Pawnees, in open council, expressed their determination to remove south, in defiance of the authority of the Indian Bureau.

On September 22, 1874, the agent of the Pawnees was instructed that if said Indians in open council should ask that their present reservation be sold and another reservation provided for them in the Indian Territory, the Department of the Interior would take the necessary steps for carrying out their wishes, and ask Congress that their lands be brought into market, from the proceeds of which a new reservation could be purchased for them, and necessary improvements, stock, and farming-implements paid for.

On October 10, 1874, the tribe held a general council, and it was unanimously requested that they be allowed to remove to the Indian

Territory, and that their present reservation of 283,200 acres (of which 50,000 have already been appraised for sale, under act of June 10, 1872,) be disposed of for their benefit.

This action has met the approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and is further recommended by the Secretary of the Interior.

In consideration of the fact that the Pawnee reservation in Nebraska is situate immediately on the line of the Union Pacific Railroad, and is scantily supplied with timber, upon which the surrounding settlers are constantly making depredations, it would seem to be expedient to provide for their removal. The tribe, numbering less than 1,800 persons, cannot easily be protected from the neighboring Sioux, with whom they are at enmity. The policy of removing friendly Indians to the Indian Territory is one that the committee earnestly recommend.

The reservation of the affiliated bands at the Wichita agency, to which one-fourth of the Pawnees have already gone, contains 1,221,120 acres, of which one-fifth is tillable for the most valuable products, and the remainder is suitable for grazing, and has a sufficient quantity of water and timber. On this tract there are now less than 2,000 of the affiliated bands, and it offers every facility to accommodate a very large additional number. Considerable progress has been made in agriculture, schools, and civilization there, offering those advantages to additional tribes which may be placed among them.

The committee, therefore, report the bill, the principal provisions of which are recommended by the Indian Bureau, and recommend its passage.