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Timber-culture laws.

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TIMBER-CULTURE LAWS.

FEBRUARY 9, 1893.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. AMERMAN, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 2564.]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2564) to amend section 6 of the act approved March 3, 1891, entitled "An act to repeal timber-culture laws, and for other purposes," have had the same under consideration and report the same back with recommendation that it pass.

By act of March 2, 1889, the great Sioux Indian Reservation lying in South Dakota and Nebraska was opened to settlement under the provisions of the homestead law in force at that time, which required residence on the land for a period of five years in order to acquire title, unless the settler elected to pay the Government \$1.25 per acre, in which case he could get title in six months.

The act of March 3, 1891, amended the original act so a residence of fourteen months is now required to gain title.

A provision of this same amendment made this act apply only to that portion of the reservation in South Dakota, while the old law applies to that portion in Nebraska, and as the law now stands the settlers who located on the south side of the State line can not acquire title short of five years' residence, while his neighbors just across the line may acquire title in fourteen months.

This bill only seeks to add to the existing proviso the words "and in the State of Nebraska," which will place all settlers on the reservation on a perfect equality under the law, regardless of State lines.