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REORGANIZING THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS.

FEBRUARY 9, 1897.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. RAY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10278.]

The Committee on the Judiciary, having fully considered the matters covered by the bill (H. R. 10211) to reorganize the judicial districts of Arkansas, and for other purposes, approve the accompanying substitute for same and recommend its passage.

It is a compromise agreed upon by the Arkansas delegation in Congress, and takes the place of House bills 9751, 9732, and 10211.

The State of Arkansas has heretofore been divided into two districts, the eastern and the western; the eastern including nearly the whole State, as the western district had jurisdiction over the Indian Territory, which fact made such division fair, and quite evenly divided the business done in the two districts. By recent laws this condition has been changed, and the western district of Arkansas retains jurisdiction of but little business from the Territory. Hence, a redivision of the State becomes not only proper but necessary. The division made by this bill is the best that can be made under present circumstances, and, while not equally dividing the Territory or the population, will quite evenly divide the business and accommodate litigants, attorneys, and court officers.

By reason of developments now being made and the increased growth of population in the western part of the State as compared with the eastern, but few years will elapse before the division made by this bill will quite nearly equalize the population and permanent business of the State.

The selection of places for holding court is the best that can be made, all things considered, and, while convenient, will result in a saving of expense to the Government.

The appointment of additional clerks for district and circuit courts in the northern division of the eastern district is absolutely necessary for the proper transaction of business and the speedy and due administration of justice.