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Amendment to Indian appropriation bill.

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AMENDMENT TO INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL.

APRIL 6, 1897.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany proposed amendment to the Indian appropriation bill.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Allen to the bill (H. R. 15) making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, and for other purposes, beg leave to report the same favorably, and to say that there are three Government warehouses for the distribution of Indian supplies in the United States, located, respectively, in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco, the one at the latter place being only temporarily kept open.

Omaha is probably the most centrally located point for the distribution of Indian supplies in the United States. There are nine railroads entering and leaving in all directions, having ample facilities for quickly and cheaply distributing supplies. Those sent to Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and, in fact, many other Western, Northwestern, and Southwestern States could be easily and quickly reached from Omaha.

The writer being a resident of Nebraska and an admirer of Omaha, and a believer in its business push and energy, may be somewhat prejudiced in favor of that city, and yet we are firmly convinced that, all things considered, it is the most centrally and best located place for the quick and cheap distribution of stores to the largest number of Indians at a minimum cost for transportation. Omaha's situation, its large commercial interests, and railroad and warehouse facilities make it a highly desirable base of supplies.

Indian supplies distributed from the East in large quantities could be transported more cheaply than from Chicago, by reason of reduced rates; that is, shipments from Chicago to the point of distribution must necessarily be in small quantities and the rate be higher than like shipments from Omaha, and this item is well worthy of consideration. It should be remembered in this connection, also, as a very important fact, that Omaha is thirty-six hours closer to the Indians to be supplied. These considerations, with others that might be mentioned, make it desirable that the amendment be placed on the Indian appropriation bill and become a law, and we recommend its reference to the Committee on Appropriations.