

JOHN SECHLER.

MARCH 3, 1890.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. TOWNSEND, of Colorado, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1607.]

The Committee on the Public Lands have had under consideration this bill, and as the facts are clearly stated in the report of the Senate Committee on Public Lands, the same is hereby adopted as the report of your committee, and your committee recommend the passage of the bill. The report is as follows:

Under the treaty between the United States and the Cheyenne and Arrapahoe tribes of Indians concluded October 14, 1865, and proclaimed on February 2, 1867, the United States agreed to grant by patent in fee simple to a number of persons named in said treaty, who were related to the Cheyennes and Arrapahoes by blood, 640 acres of land each, which lands were to be selected under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior from the reservation established by the first article of their treaty of February 18, 1861.

Among the persons named in the treaty empowered to select land and to receive patent therefor were "the children of Oto-se-ot-see," wife of "John Y. Sickles," namely, "Margaret, Minnie, and John." In accordance with the provisions of the act, on the 20th of September, 1870, the Secretary of the Interior issued a patent to John Sickles for a certain tract of land denominated claim number nine upon the Arkansas River, in Bent County, Colo., which patent was recorded in said county on the 29th of December, A. D. 1874, and again filed for record after the destruction of the court-house of Bent County, on October 1, 1888.

The papers accompanying this bill show that the name of the claimant to the within described lands was erroneously spelled in the treaty "Sickles" instead of Sechler, and that John Sechler, now a resident of Crawford, Dawes County, Nebr., has been continuously the owner of said land under said treaty since the issue of a patent therefor. Affidavits of various responsible citizens of Nebraska who have known said Sechler for years and have been possessed of knowledge of his ownership of said land also accompany the bill, as do certificates of the county clerk and county treasurer of Bent County, Colo., showing that he has been in undisputed possession since 1870 and has paid taxes upon the same, and that there are no taxes due and unpaid.

Your committee therefore report the bill favorably with the recommendation that it do pass.