

## ADDITIONAL LAND DISTRICT IN THE STATE OF OREGON.

DECEMBER 14, 1886.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

MR. STRAIT, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted the following

### REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1869.]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred Senate bill No. 1869, beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the facts necessitating the establishment of an additional land district in the State of Oregon, as proposed by said bill.

Oregon embraces an area of 60,975,360 acres, of which about two-thirds is fully surveyed and capable of settlement, and the remainder is subject for annual surveys hereafter.

There are five districts in Oregon at present and all doing an excess over the maximum business, with maximum salaries and commissions.

The proposed district embraces that portion of Eastern Oregon most recently settled and the last occupied by Indian tribes. The nearest land offices by usual traveled routes are Lakeview, distant from the center of the proposed district about 160 miles, and La Grande, about 180 miles, without railway or water communication. The cost and inconvenience to settlers in being obliged to travel so far to transact their land business with either of said offices has proven not only a great hardship upon them, but retards the growth and development of the country. The proposed district embraces 454 townships, or about 10,460,160 acres. It takes from the La Grande, The Dalles, and the Lakeview land districts, still leaving to each sufficient area to employ their respective offices and to afford them the full or nearly the full maximum compensation for some time in the future, assuming the demand for settlements to continue and the present facilities for obtaining public lands to exist. The reduction of the districts named will bring their outer boundaries within easier access to the local offices.

The smallest in area of said districts remaining after the creation of the proposed district will contain about 344 townships, or 7,925,760 acres. This is The Dalles district, while the La Grande district will retain nearly 10,000,000 acres, and the Lakeview district will retain about 775 townships, or 17,856,000 acres. In this are included about 50 townships, or 1,152,000 acres, embracing the Fort Klamath Indian Reservation.

The rapidly-increasing settlements in the proposed new district, with the larger area therein of vacant, rich grazing and tillable lands, will at once afford ample employment for the new office, and will also prove to the homeseeker and settler a great convenience in having an office within a day's, and not to exceed two days' travel from the remotest

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land in the district. The size of the district will be about 108 miles north and south and about 150 miles east and west, and quite symmetrical in shape. The Interior Department recommends the establishment of said land district according to the boundaries proposed in the pending bill.

We therefore report said bill back to the House, with the recommendation that it do pass.