

REMOVAL OF CERTAIN INDIANS FROM WISCONSIN.

MAY 6, 1874.—Recommitted to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT :

[To accompany bill H. R. 2017.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2017) to provide for the removal of certain Indians from the State of Wisconsin, having had the same under consideration and come to conclusions thereon, make the following report :

The bill asks for the appropriation of \$20,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be used for the purpose of removing certain stray bands of Pottawatomie Indians and Pottawatomies intermarried with Menomonees and Chippewas who are not entitled to enrollment with either of said tribes from the State of Wisconsin, the money to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

There are about three hundred of these Indians staying within the limits of the State, leading somewhat of a gipsy life, with no profit to themselves and very much to the annoyance of the citizens. They are fragments of tribes and parts of tribes that have from time to time been removed to the Indian country.

In 1870 \$35,000 were appropriated to remove certain Pottawatomies, Chippewas, and Winnebagoes from the State to the territory south of Kansas. Money was appropriated for like purposes in the years 1872 and 1873.

Believing that the peace, quiet, and prosperity of both the Indian and citizen will be essentially promoted by the removal of the former to the Indian country, the committee recommend the passage of the bill with this proviso added :

Provided, That no Indian shall be removed under this act without his consent thereto shall first have been obtained.

The committee append a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs recommending the same :

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
April 7, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, inclosing, for my views as to the necessity for the passage of the same, a copy of House bill No. 2017, entitled "A bill for the removal of certain Indians from the State of Wisconsin."

In reply I have to state that complaint has been made to this Office that these stray bands of Indians are causing considerable annoyance to the farmers in their vicinity. In view of this fact, and inasmuch as they have no permanent organization in Wis-

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consin, it is the opinion of this Office that their interests would be subserved by their removal to Kansas to join the tribes there to which they respectively belong, and that an appropriation should be made for that purpose.

The bill is respectfully returned herewith.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWD. P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

Hon. H. L. RICHMOND,
House of Representatives.