

INDIAN RESERVATION IN MONTANA.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING TO THE HOUSE

A draught of a bill to establish a reservation for certain Indians in the Territory of Montana.

JANUARY 7, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 6, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to submit, for the favorable consideration and action of Congress, a draught of a bill to designate and set apart a certain tract of land in the Territory of Montana, therein described, as a reservation for the Gros Ventre, Piegan, Blood, Blackfoot, River Crow, and such other Indians as the President may, from time to time, locate thereon.

I also transmit, for the information of Congress, a copy of a report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 5th instant, containing the reasons which, in the opinion of this Department, render legislation necessary.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

AN ACT to establish a reservation for certain Indians in the Territory of Montana.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following described tract of country, in the Territory of Montana, be, and the same is hereby, set apart for the use and occupation of the Gros Ventre, Piegan, Blood, Blackfoot, River Crow, and such other Indians as the President may, from time to time, see fit to locate thereon, viz: Commencing at the northwest corner of the Territory of Dakota, being the intersection of the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude and the one hundred and fourth meridian of west longitude; thence south to the south bank of the Missouri River; thence up and along the south bank of said river, to a point opposite the mouth of the Maria's River; thence along the main channel of the Maria's River to Birch Creek; thence up the main channel of Birch Creek to its source; thence west to the summit of the main chain of the Rocky Mountains; thence along the summit of the Rocky Mountains to the northern boundary of Montana; thence along said northern boundary to the place of beginning.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 5, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the following, with a view to legislation by Congress, viz:

By the terms of certain treaties concluded July 13 and 15 and September 1, 1868, with the Gros Ventre, Piegan, Blood, Blackfoot, River Crow, and other Indians in the Territory of Montana, a reservation, as described therein, was set apart for said Indians. These treaties, however, were never ratified, but the reservation, substantially as described in said treaties, has been set apart by Executive order, to prevent the encroachment of white persons and the introduction of whisky by them.

In view of the foregoing, I respectfully recommend that Congress be requested to designate and set apart as a reservation for said Indians, and such others as the Department may see fit to locate thereon, the following tract of country, viz: Commencing at the northwest corner of the Territory of Dakota, being the intersection of the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude and the one hundred and fourth meridian of west longitude; thence south to the south bank of the Missouri River; thence up and along the south bank of said river to a point opposite the mouth of the Maria's River; thence along the main channel of the Maria's River to Birch Creek; thence up the main channel of Birch Creek to its source; thence west to the summit of the main chain of the Rocky Mountains; thence along the summit of the Rocky Mountains to the northern boundary of Montana; thence along said north boundary to the place of beginning.

A draught of a bill, calculated, in the opinion of this office, to accomplish the object, is herewith submitted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW'D P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.