

WIND RIVER VALLEY SETTLERS.

JANUARY 7, 1881.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1779.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1779) for the relief of certain settlers in the Wind River Valley, Wyoming Territory, having had the same under consideration, report as follows:

Certain citizens of the United States, in conformity with the public land laws, settled upon and improved certain lands situate in Wind River Valley, Wyoming Territory, at that time unsurveyed lands of the United States. After such *bona-fide* settlement and occupancy, the Government of the United States, through its authorized agents, on July 3, 1868, in a treaty with the Shoshone and Bannock tribes of Indians, set apart a reservation for these Indians in the Wind River Valley, including the lands thus settled upon. It appears but just and proper that the government should pay these settlers the value of their improvements.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior strongly recommend that an appropriation be made by Congress to pay these claims, and the committee therefore report back the bill, with a commendation that it do pass.