

NEW YORK INDIAN LANDS IN KANSAS.

APRIL 6, 1880.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 356.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, having had under consideration bill H. R. 356, submit the following report, together with a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, bearing date of March 29, 1878, giving the history of the case as presented in this bill.

Your committee, however, beg leave to differ with the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs as to the justice of his conclusion, when he says that—

It is safe to assume that the several tracts were in 1873 worth the full amount at which they were appraised, and that in view of the rapid development of the country and the present price of uncultivated lands in that vicinity there has at least been no depreciation of their value.

Your committee are of the opinion that there has been a marked depreciation in the value of Western lands since 1873; that the appraised value of the lands under which they are made to average \$5.02½ per acre is much above the price at which unimproved lands in Kansas can now be purchased for, and that the price named in the bill, \$3 per acre, is a fair and just valuation.

Your committee agree with the statement of the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs that "it is very desirable that adequate legislation be had insuring the sale of these lands and the final settlement of all questions in connection therewith," and therefore recommend the passage of the bill advised by the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, changed only as to the price per acre that the occupants shall be obliged to pay.

Your committee further state that in their judgment the price that should be considered adequate for these lands should be that price the lands were worth when abandoned by the Indians nearly twenty years ago; that the act of Congress of 1873 provided for the patenting to the Indians then living upon the lands the selections they had made under treaty, and that those who were at that time living on the lands received patents for their selections; that the lands now sought to be sold are only those lands that have been abandoned by the original allottees.

Your committee desire to further state that the Indians, through their attorney, Hon. S. A. Cobb, of Wyandotte County, Kansas, two years since agreed to a uniform price of \$2.50 per acre, and that they desired

the sale of the lands. The settlers living upon the lands also signified their willingness to purchase at that price, and, therefore, your committee feel that in fixing the price at \$3 per acre they have named its maximum valuation.

We would respectfully recommend the passage of the bill with the amendments indicated.

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