

CERTAIN BANDS OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS IN WISCONSIN.

FEBRUARY 4, 1880.—Recommitted to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1139.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred House bill 1139, entitled "A bill for the relief of the Lac de Flambeau, Lac Court Oreilles, and Bad River bands of Chippewa Indians, in the State of Wisconsin," have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report it back to the House with amendments, and recommend its passage when so amended.

The amendments proposed are as follows, and apply to the printed bill, to wit:

1. Amend section 4 by inserting the words *selected as* immediately after the word "allotments" in the first line thereof.

2. Amend section 5 by inserting the words *lease, incumbrance, or* immediately after the word "to" in the ninth line, and by striking out the word "fifteen" where it occurs in the tenth line, and inserting in lieu thereof the word *twenty-five*.

3. Amend section 6 by inserting immediately after the word "persons" where it occurs in the third line the following: *who shall be experts in the appraisalment of the value of standing pine timber*.

4. Amend section 7 by inserting the words *merchantable pine* immediately after the word "all" in the fourteenth line, and by inserting the words *damages to the* immediately after the word "no" in the twenty-third line.

5. Amend section 9 by striking out the words "the Lac de Flambeau" where they occur in the first line, and inserting in the place of the same the words *all the said*; by striking out the word "their" where it occurs in the second line, and inserting in lieu thereof the word *the*, and by inserting the words of *the Lac de Flambeau* immediately after the word "consolidation" in the second line.

6. Amend section 11 by striking out the word "fifty" in the second line and inserting the word *thirty* in lieu thereof.

The following facts and considerations are submitted as commendatory of this measure:

By the treaty of September 30, 1854, with the Chippewas of Superior (10 Stat., 1109), their reservations were set aside for the three bands of Indians affected by this bill, viz: For the Bad River band, a tract of land on the coast of Lake Superior, near Ashland, containing 124,333 acres; for the Lac Court Orielle band, a tract on the headwaters of the Chippewa River containing 69,136 acres; and for the Lac de Flambeau

band, a tract on the headwaters of the Flambeau and Wisconsin Rivers containing 69,824 acres, all being in the State of Wisconsin. The first and second named tracts or reservations contain much arable land, well adapted to agriculture, enough, it is authentically stated, for the occupancy of the three bands of Indians above named, who number about 2,500 souls, while the last-named reservation, the Lac de Flambeau, contains little or no arable land, and is valuable only for its pine timber. The band occupying this exclusively pine or timbered reservation are only 542 in number, have had the least civilizing opportunities, are of a roving disposition, and without educational facilities.

It is the policy and purpose of this bill, first having obtained the consent of all the Indians to its provisions, to cause the Lac de Flambeau band to be removed to and consolidated with the Bad River and Lac Court Oreille bands, as they may elect. After such consolidation shall have been completed, allotments from the best agricultural lands in these reservations are to be selected and conveyed in severalty to each head of a family or single person over 18 years of age 80 acres; to each orphan child under 18 years of age 80 acres, and to each other unmarried person under 18 years of age 40 acres; the title to such lands so allotted to be made inalienable, and not subject to lease, incumbrance, or taxation for a period of 25 years, and as long thereafter as the President may determine. Since some of these selections will contain valuable pine timber, varying in quantity and quality, and others none, in order to equalize benefits as nearly as may be, the bill provides for an appraisal and sale at public auction of all the merchantable pine timber upon the lands allotted as aforesaid, the same to be for cash, and to be removed within a period of three years from the date of such sale. It is further provided that all the unallotted lands remaining within these two reservations shall then be appraised and sold at public auction for cash, in tracts not exceeding 80 acres, and in like manner all the lands within the Lac de Flambeau reservation are to be sold.

The net proceeds of all such sales, after deducting the expenses incurred in surveys, appraisements, sales, and removals, it is provided shall be invested in the four per centum bonds of the United States, for the benefit of all said Indians, the interest accruing thereupon to be annually distributed to the members of said bands for their support, education, and civilization. It is estimated that there will be realized from the sales of timber and lands under the provisions of this bill fully \$1,000,000, the pine timber on the three reservations being estimated at from 500 to 700 million feet, of good quality, and contiguous to stream for floating the same to the mills and markets. This timber is now exposed to great hazard from trespass, fire, and wind, and is unavailable to the Indians for any purpose. The Indians are very poor, and unable to subsist without aid from the government, which they are annually receiving.

Your committee are, therefore, of the opinion that the true interests of these Indians, their civilization, education, and physical independence, as well as economy and sound public policy on the part of the government, will be best subserved by the passage of this bill.