1284-98

NEW YORK INDIAN LANDS IN KANSAS.

MARCH 5, 1884.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 2047.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, having had under consideration bill H. R. 2047, submit the following report:

These lands are situated in Bourbon County, Kansas, are occupied by actual settlers, and have been for more than twenty years, and are, in a good state of cultivation with valuable improvements thereon. settlers are desirous of having the questions of controversy and of dispute settled, and are anxious to obtain a perfect title to their homes, and in that view are willing to accept the provisions of the bill reported by your committee.

A more detailed history of these lands is given in the accompanying letters of the honorable Secretary of the Interior and of the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs dated, respectively, April 8, 1878, and March 29, 1878.

From the first the settlers have been denying the claim and title of the Indians to these lands, and for years have been asking favorable legislation from Congress in their behalf.

The bill considered by your committee is a reprint of bill H. R. 406 of the Forty-seventh Congress, and the Committee on Indian Affairs of that Congress, to which the bill was referred, made the following report thereon:

The history of the lands in question is given in a letter of the honorable Commis-

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.

There is no difference of opinion on any point of the bill, with the sole exception of the price per acre, between your committee and the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs; your committee holding that \$3 per acre, uniform for all the lands, be-

ing preferable under the circumstances to the old appraisement of 1873.

Without deciding the question of whether or not the Indians suffered wrongs at the hands of white settlers twenty-five years ago, your committee in their recommendation of the passage of this bill, seek only to settle amicably this old Indian title, se-

curing to the Indians the largest price possible for their lands, and to the present white occupants an unquestioned title to their homes and improved farms.

In this connection it is well to state that the present occupants, with few possible exceptions, are not the original "squatters" upon the land, but hold by purchase of these rights of possession from the original settlers. In case the matter was referred to the courts it would become necessary to determine whether the Indian title to any of the allotments is good or not under the treaty stipulations, and if decided that the title is good, and that the Indians really own the lands in question, under the occupying claimant's law of the State of Kansas, each occupant in possession holding under

a color of title from some previous occupant would be entitled to recover from the successful litigant such payment for his improvements as was found by the court just and equitable.

No Indian is in condition to make good this demand of the occupant, and it would not unlikely occurrhat in the end, after expensive and vexatious litigation, he would

fail to secure any considerable compensation for his property.

Your committee are therefore of the opinion that either to send these parties into court by a direct order, or to pass such legislation as would inevitably result in a tedious litigation, is both unwise and unjust to both parties. It has been made clearly apparent that to provide for the sale of the land under the appraisement would only result in a determined opposition by the settlers in the courts.

It has also been made apparent that the price fixed in the bill (\$3 per acre), will be acceded to by the settlers and the money promptly paid, under the provisions of the bill, to the Secretary of the Interior, to be held by him in trust, subject to the call of the proper parties to whom it may belong.

Your committee further state that in their judgment the price that should be considered adequate for these lands should not be much greater than 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 which 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 voluntarily or otherwise abandoned by the original allottees.

Your committee desire further to state that the Indians, through their attorney, Hon. S. A. Cobb, of Wyandotte County, Kansas, four 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 a

reasonable valuation.

They therefore, in a spirit of compromise, offer this bill as in their judgment presenting under all the circumstances the best possible solution of the question, and recommend its passage.

With the recommendation of the committee of the last Congress your committee fully concurs, except that it recommends that the present bill be amended so as to strike out all after the word "made," in line 16 of section 1, and down to and inclusive of the word "annum," in line 20 of the same section, and insert in lieu thereof, "in cash at time of purchase."

And in the second section strike out all after the word "sold" in the 6th line, and down to and inclusive of the word "provided" in the ninth

and tenth lines of the said section.

These recommendations are made by your committee thinking it better for the Indians, and but little more rigorous for the settlers than the provisions of the original bill. The certificates of allotment to these lands were issued in September, 18 0, to the Indians, and yet in all these years they have not been able to get possession of them, make improvements upon them, cultivate them, or make disposition of them, and, in the judgment of your committee, if they are ever to realize anything from them, it must be by act of Congress authorizing their sale to the settlers occupying them, and somewhat in the spirit of compro-There were 1,824,000 acres of land in Kansas given to the New York Indians by the treaty of 1838. In April, 1858, the then honorable Secretary of the Interior held that those of the New York Indians who had not removed to the lands had thereby forfeited their title thereto, and that the same should be opened to settlement, and in December, 1860, executive proclamation was made opening the lands to the settlers of the country. But after the decision of the Secretary of the Interior, of April, 1858, and prior to the executive proclamation of December 1860, the thirty-two Indians spoken of in the accompanying reports satisfied the Secretary of the Interior that they had complied with the provisions of the treaty of 1838, and on the 14th day of September, 1860, certificates of allotments were issued to them for 320 acres

each. The lands so allotted are the lands embraced within the provisions of the present bill. All else was sold by the Government to the settlers at \$1.25 per acre, and the settlers now occupying and claiming the allotted lands claim they, or the parties from whom they have purchased them, were occupying and improving them when they were selected by the Indians, and for such reasons they have never been willing to recognize the right or title of the Indians to the land.

It is unquestionably true that the allottees have never occupied the lands since the certificates of allotment were issued to them; have not cultivated or improved them, and have done nothing to contribute to their worth or value, while, during the entire period the settlers have been in possession, denying the validity of the Indian claim and asking

for a title to their homes.

Under these circumstances, and particularly in view of the occupying claimant's law of Kansas, mentioned by the committee in its report to the last Congress, your committee has deemed it best for all, and eminently fair to the Indians, to recommend the passage of the present bill, amended in the particulars suggested.

> DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, Washington, March 29, 1878.

SIR: I am in receipt, by reference from the House Committee on Public Lands, of bill H. R. 1178, providing for the sale of certain New York Indian lands in Kansas, and requesting the views of this office on the same.

I am also in receipt, by your reference for report, of a letter from the Hon. D. C. Haskell, dated January 18, 1878, inclosing a copy of the same bill, and requesting the views of this office thereon.

In connection therewith I have the honor to report that, by the second article of the treaty of January 15, 1838, with the New York Indians (7 Stat., 550), the United States agreed to set aside for the New York Indians, then residing in Wisconsin and New York, a certain tract of land, west of Missouri, containing 320 acres for each of said Indians, to be held in fee-simple, by patent from the President, in conformity with the provisions of the third article of the act of May 28, 1830 (4 Stat., 411), the proviso to which declares that "such lands shall revert to the United States if the Indians become extinct or abandon the same." The treaty vested the Indians with full power and authority to divide said lands, in severalty, among the different tribes and bands, and to sell and convey the same among each other, under such regulations as they might adopt. Indians not accepting and agreeing to remove within five years, or such other time as the President may from time to time appoint, to "forfeit all interest" in "the lands so set apart to the United States."

Under these provisions 32 New York Indians removed to and remained in the Terri-

tory now embraced in the State of Kansas prior to June 16, 1860, at which time the honorable Secretary of the Interior approved to them selections of 320 acres each, for which, on the 14th of September, 1860, certificates of allotment were issued to each of said reservees, the certificate specifying that the selections were for the exclusive use and benefit of the reservees, and were not subjected to be "alienated in fee, leased, or otherwise disposed of, except to the United States."

By an act approved February 19, 1873 (17 Stat., 466), Congress authorized such actual settlers as were then residing thereon to enter and purchase said lands in tracts of not exceeding 160 acres, at an appraised value of not less than \$3.75 per acre, to be ascertained, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, by three appraisers appointed to value the same, the funds arising from the sale to be paid into the Treasury of the United States, in trust for such of said New York Indians or their heirs as might, within five years, establish their identity; and in absence of such proof within the time specified, the proceeds of the sale to become a part of the public moneys of the United States: "Provided, That any Indian to whom any of said certificates was issued, and who is now occupying the land allotted thereby, shall be entitled to receive a title therefor."

All entries under this act were required to be made within two years from the pro-

mulgation of the necessary regulations for the sale of the lands.

This act was amended by the act of June 23, 1874 (18 Stat., 273), so as to allow the payments to be made in two annual installments, the first payments to be made on or before the 30th day of September, 1875, and the remainder within one year thereafter,

with interest at 6 per centum per annum.

The commissioners appointed under the act of 1873 to appraise the lands reported on the 26th of July, 1873, that none of the 32 New York Indians were living on the lands at that time or at the date of the act, but that all of said lands were then occupied by actual settlers, whose names were given in the report opposite the description of the tract on which they had respectively made settlement. The lands were valued by the appraisers at an average of \$4.9076 per acre, and their report was approved by the Department September 30, 1873.

Instructions were issued by the Secretary, under the same date, directing that the lands should be sold under the instructions of the General Land Office by the district land officers, who were directed to notify the settlers entitled to purchase by published advertisement of a general character in a newspaper published in the vicinity of the

land that payment would be required within two years.

In pursuance of these instructions, as it appears from a letter of the lonorable Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated July 3, 1877, the following sales have been made:

First. From N. ½ section 26, 23 S., 25 E., allotted to Joseph Johndroe, there has been sold, at \$5 per acre, cash, to Benjamin Brown, the NE. \(\frac{1}{2}\) of said section; consideration,

Second. From N. ½ section 27, 23 S., 25 E., allotted to Margaret Johndroe, there has been sold, at \$5 per acre, cash, to Nathaniel Oates, the S. ½ NE. ½: consideration, \$400. Third. From the S. ½ of said section 27, allotted to Michael Gray, there has been sold, at \$4.50 per acre, cash, to Nathaniel Oates, the N. ½ of SE. ¼; consideration, \$360. Fourth. From W. ½ section 4, 24 S., 25 E., allotted to James Scrimpsher, there has been sold, at \$4.75 per acre, cash, to S. McEwing, the N. ½ of SW. ¼; consideration,

Fifth. From N. ½ section 27, 23 S., 25 E., allotted to Margaret Johndroe, there has been sold, at \$5 per acre, cash, to William M. Beckford, the N. ½ NE. ¼, and at \$4.50 per acre, to the same party, the N ½ SW. 2 of said section; consideration, \$760.

Sixth. From the same allotment there has been sold, at \$4.50 per acre, and paid in full, in two installments, with \$10.77 interest, to John Barrett, the S. \(\frac{1}{2}\) NW. \(\frac{1}{2}\); con-

sideration, including interest, \$370.77.

Seventh. From the W. fractional 1, sec. 2, 24 S., 25 E., allotted to Joseph Fox, there has been sold, at \$5 per acre, and paid in full, in two installments, with \$23.80 interest, to Joanna Glendenning, the NW. fractional \(\frac{1}{4} \), containing 156.76 acres; consideration, with interest, \$822.60.

Eighth. And from the E. fractional ½ sec. 6, 24 S., 25 E., allotted to Mary Predome, there has been sold, at \$6 per acre, to Levi T. Call, the W. ½ of SE ½ of said section. amounting to \$480, one-half of which was paid at date of purchase, September 29, 1875,

and the balance, with interest, is still due and unpaid.

There has, therefore, out of an aggregate of 10,215.63 acres, valued at \$50,850.05, been sold 579.76 acres for the sum of \$3,858.80; leaving unsold 9,335.87 acres, valued at \$46,991.25, or an average of \$5.021 per acre, which aggregate amount would, according to the terms of the act of February 19, 1873, if not claimed by the allottees, or their heirs, inure to the United States at the end of five years, which have expired.

The bill under consideration proposes to reduce the aggregate value of the unsold lands over one-half, or to \$23,339.68, and if the lands are not sold, at the diminished rate of \$2.50 per acre, within one year, that patents shall issue in the names of the original allottees for the balance unsold.

With these provisions of the bill I am not inclined to concur, for the following rea-

sons:

Under the treaty of 1838 the New York Indians were entitled to 1,824,000 acres of land in Kansas, and a removal fund of \$400,000, which the United States never provided. Notwithstanding the failure of the United States in this regard, portions of the Indians removed to Kansas subsequent to the treaty, with a view of making that country their permanent home, but on account of t eir rapid depletion in number from sickness, a majority afterwards returned to New York.

By decision of April 19, 1858, the honorable Secretary of the Interior held that those of the New York Indians who had not removed had thereby forfeited their title to the reserve, and that the same should be opened to settlement; but in the execution of said decision, and prior to the proclamation of December, 1869, opening the lands to settlement, the allotments under consideration were made to the 32 Indians who were

then in Kansas, and certificates were issued to them therefor.

It follows, therefore, that an equitable interest in fee in the lands vested in these Indians, by virtue of the grant contained in the treaty, at the date of their removal and long prior to the settlement of Kansas, although the evidence of title did not issue until 1860.

They accordingly assumed the condition of legal ownership, by purchase, over the lands subsequently allotted to them, at an early day, and are entitled to the benefits of any appreciation of value arising from the settlement and improvement of the country.

This doctrine is, I am aware, in opposition to a somewhat prevalent opinion as to the right of the Indians. It has been urged in similar cases that as the Indians have not improved their lands they are not entitled to the advance in value incident to the settlement of the country. The purchase of wild lands, and holding of the same to await the improvement of the country, has been one of the most popular and safe, as well as the most remunerative methods of investment known, and I can see no grounds upon which Indians taking an equitable title in fee should be deprived of the benefits never denied to white purchasers of public lands, bought and held for speculative pur-

Informal claims have been filed in this office by the original allottees, or their heirs, covering nearly all the proceeds arising from the sale of these lands when sold.

There is no evidence on file in this office, aside from the letters of Mr. Haskell, showing that it is the desire of these Indians' that the lands should be sold at a reduced

The lands are in Bourbon County, one of the richest and most fertile counties in the State. They are within a few miles of Fort Scott, and near the line of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad-the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad running nearly through the center of the body of the lands, which lie in close proximity to the corner of townships 23 and 24 in ranges 24 and 25 east. The records of the General Land Office show that there is scarcely a vacant forty-acre tract of land in or near the townships named. With these facts in view, 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 in their value.

The settlers have been in possession of these lands for years, to the exclusion of the

Indians, and have had every advantage and opportunity to pay for the lands from the

products of the same.

The title of the Indians is, under treaty stipulations, similar to those with the Shawnee, Miami, and other Indians in Kansas, whose lands have been held by the Supreme Court of the United States (5 Wall., 737) to be excluded from the jurisdiction of the State, and not subject to taxation, and it is fairly presumable that the settlers have availed themselves of the benefit arising under this decision.

For these and other reasons which might be urged, I cannot recommend the passage of the bill in its present form. It is, however, very desirable that adequate legislation be had insuring the sale of these lands and the final settlement of all questions in con-

nection there with.

I have, therefore, to recommend that the bill be amended as follows: Strike out all after the word "office," in the twelfth line, and insert, in lieu thereof, the following: "At any time within one year from the passage of this act said lands so occupied by them in tracts not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, according to the Government surveys, at not less that the appraised value of the said tracts, as heretofore

ascertained by the Secretary of the Interior, in accordance with the provisions of the act of February nineteenth, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, entitled 'An act to provide for the sale of certain New York Indian lands in Kansas,' payment to be made in three annual installments, one-third at date of entry, one-third at the end of one year from date of entry, and the balance in two years from date of entry, with interest on said amounts, respectively, from date of entry, at six per centum per annum; and the moneys arising from such sales shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States in trust for, and to be paid to said Indians, respectively, to whom said certificates were issued, or to their heirs, upon satisfactory proof of their identity to the Secretary of the Interior, at any time within three years from the passage of this act; and in case such proof is not made within the time specified, then the proceeds of such sale, or so much thereof as shall not have been paid under the provisions of this act, shall become a part of the public moneys of the United States.

"Sec. 2. That any lands not entered by such settlers at the expiration of one year from the passage of this act shall be offered at public sale, in the usual manner, at not less than the appraised value, notice of said sale to be given by public advertisement of not less than thirty days; and any tract or tracts not then sold, together with such tracts as have heretofore been or may hereafter be entered, and wherein default has been made in the payment of any portion of the purchase-money, or the interest thereon, as herein or heretofore provided, shall be thereafter subject to private entry

at the appraised value of said tracts."

I inclose herewith a schedule showing the names of the 32 allottees named in this report, the description of the lands allotted to each, with the names of the settlers claiming the lands placed opposite the tract claimed by them.

The bill referred by the House committee, together with the letter of Mr. Haskell,

with inclosure, is herewith respectfully returned.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. A. HAYT,

Commissioner.

The Hon. Secretary of the Interior.

Description.	Section.	Township.	Range.	Number of acres.	Value per acre.	Total value.	Name of reservee.	Name of settler.
NW. ‡ SW. ‡ SE. ‡ SW. ‡	36 36 27 27	23 23 23 23	24 24 25 25	Acres. 160. 00 160. 00 160. 00 160. 00	\$6 50 6 00 4 50 4 50		Mary Ann Graydo Michael Graydo	Lyman Schaffer. Edward Schaffer. Mary D. Nickerson, S. ½; Nathaniel Oates, N. ½ William Morehead, W. ½ and SE. ½; R. Simmons, N. E. ½.
NE. ‡ NW. ‡ NE. ‡ NW. ‡ SE. ‡ SW. ‡	27 27 26 26 26 26 26 35	23 23 23 23 23 23 23	25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	160, 00 160, 00 160, 00 160, 00 160, 00 160, 00	5 00 4 50 5 00 4 00 4 00 3 75 3 75	720 00 800 00 640 00 640 00 600 00 600 00	Margaret Johnson, srdo Joseph Johnson do Agnes Johndroe do Bridget Johndroe	William M. Beckford, N. ½; Nathaniel Oates, S. ½. William M. Beckford, N. ½; John Barrett, S. ½. Benjamin Bowman. James Barrett, N. ½; Mary Hodges, S. ½. George McNeal. Nathaniel Lowrie. W. A. Dillon, N. ½; Henry Brown, S. ½.
SW. ½ NE. ½ SE. ½ NE. ½ SE. ½ NV. ½ SW. ½ NW. ½ SW. ½	35 35 35 34 34 34 34	23 23 23 23 23 23 23 23 23	25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	160. 00 160. 60 160. 00 160. 00 160. 00 160. 00 160. 00	3 75 3 75 3 75 3 75 3 75 3 75 3 75 3 75	600 00 600 00 600 00 600 00 600 00	do John Johndroedo Mary Ann Johndroedo Cecelia Johndroedo Margaret Johndroe, jr	Thomas Foster.
NW. ½ NW. ½ SW. ½ NE. ½ SE. ½ NW. ½	33 33 33 32 32	23 23 23 23 23 23 23 23	25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	160. 00 160. 00 160. 00 160. 00 160. 00	4 00 3 75 3 75 3 75 5 00 3 75	640 00 600 00 920 00 600 00	Susan Johndroe do Cecelia Erroe do	George H. Clark, E. ½; J. A. Clark, W. ½. Isaiah Lonsbury. Francis M. Allen. Michael Walks.
SW. ½ NE. ½ SE. ½ NW. fractional ½ SW. fractional ½ NE. ½ SE. ½	31 31 31	23 23 23 23 23 23 23 23 24	25 25 25 25 25 25 24 24	160. 00 160. 00 159. 46 159. 82 160. 00 160. 00 159. 00	4 25 4 25 5 00 3 75 4 75 10 00 7 00 7 00	$\begin{array}{c} 680 \ 00 \\ 800 \ 00 \\ 597 \ 97\frac{1}{2} \\ 759 \ 14\frac{1}{2} \\ 1,600 \ 00 \\ 1,120 \ 00 \end{array}$		George B. Scott. Abram Burkholder. Charles Betch, S. ½; J. M. Scott, N. ½. Samuel Bellew. E. L. Faylor. Oramur Chapman.
N.E. fractional ½. N.W. fractional ½. N.W. fractional ½. N.E. fractional ½. S.E. ½.	1 1 1 2 2 2	24 24 24 24 24 24 24	24 24 24 24 24 24	160. 00 157. 00 160. 00 155. 38 160. 00	7 00 6 00 7 00 6 50 7 50 6 00	960 00 1,099 00 1,040 00 1,165 00	Lewis Petelle do Napoleon B. Petelle do	Benjamin Sheets. James Guilfoyle. Lydia A. Hayes. Robert Hayes.

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NW. fractional 1	2	24	24	154.14	6 00	924 84	Catharine Petelle	William Lowe.
SW.1	2	24	24	160.00	8 75	600 00	do	John Darling.
NW. ‡	2 2 6	24 24	24 25	160.64	5 00	803 20	Martin Predom	S. M. Johnson.
SW. ‡	6	24	25	162, 63	6 00	975 78	do	James Ellard.
NE. fractional 1	6	24	25	159. 28	5 00	796 40	Mary Predom	William Lowrie.
SE 1	6	24	25 25	160, 00	6 00	960 00	do	Jacob Fabee, S. 1; Levi T. Call, N. 1.
SE. ‡ NW. fractional ‡	5	24	25	159. 25	5 00	706 95	Rosalie Predom	John Ruble, N. 1 and SE. 1; William Beth,
A W. Hachonar &	0	24	20	108. 20	0 00	180 20	Losane I rodom	SW. 1.
SW.4	5	24	25	160.00	5 00	800 00	do	
NE. fractional 1	5	24	25	159, 67	6 00	958 02		Henry Ruble.
SE. 4	5	24	25	160.00	6 50			
NW. 1	4	24	25	160. 72	6 60	964 32	Tomos Commachon	John NcNeal.
·SW. 1	4 1	24	25	160. 00	4 75	760 00	James Scrimpsher do	C D Delene C 1. C McFring N 1
NTT 1	4	24	25				Taria Chaireachan	S. B. Delano, S &; S. McEwing, N. &. George A. Wagoner, S. &; A. B. Wagoner, N. &.
NE. I	4		25	162. 40	5 00	812 00	Louisa Shrimpsher	George A. Wagoner, S. 8; A. D. Wagoner, N. 7.
SE. 1	4	24	25	160.00	5 50	880 00	do	David Mack.
NW. 4	3	24	25	162. 64	4 75	772 54	James Kingdo	John A. Tiffany.
SW. 1	3	24 24	25	160.00	4 75		do	Levi Gunnsaulers, S. 1; E. H. Hooker, N. 1.
NE. 2	3	24	25	161.44	4 50	726 48	Mary King	David Washburne.
SE. 2	3	24	25	160.00	4 50	720 00	70	Anderson Carter.
SE. 1 NW. fractional 1	2	24	25	159.76	5 00	798 80	Joseph Fox	Joanna Clandening.
SW.1	2 2	24	25	160.00	4 50	720 00	do	Benjamin Flahart.
NE. fractional 1	2	24	25	157, 60	3 75	590 90		William Denton, NW. 1: Jessie Allen, E. 1 and
	_							SW. 1.
SE. 1	2	24	25	160, 00	4 50	720 00	do	
NE. fractional ½	2 3	94	24	152. 66	5 50	830 63	Suga Vallowigekat	Austin Warner.
NW. fractional 4	3	24 24	24	152. 14	5 50	216 77	Suse Yellowjacketdo	John Keating.
CT 1	9	24	24	160. 00	5 50	880 00	Ann Yellowjacket	Charles Hagan.
SE. ‡	0	24	24		4 00		Aun renowjacket	Charles Hagan.
SW. 2	3	24	24	160.00	4 00	040 00	do	George W. Bolster.

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