

THE SALE OF A PORTION OF SHOSHONE AND BANNOCK
INDIAN RESERVATION IN IDAHO.

MARCH 8, 1882.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5004.]

The committee to whom was referred House Executive Document No. 18, Forty-seventh Congress, first session, beg leave to report:

That the Utah and Northern Railway Company made application to the Department of the Interior for such action as might be necessary to secure the right of way for a railroad across the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

Pursuant to this, the Secretary of the Interior caused the Indians on said reservation to be assembled for the purpose of ascertaining whether they would consent to the construction of said road; and, if so, upon what terms the right of way, &c., would be granted by them.

With the assent of the Indians, after full explanation had been made to them of what was desired, the railroad company made a survey of the line of the proposed road through the reservation, and made maps thereof, accurately defining the line, marking stations, and showing the precise quantity of land that would be required; and this having been done, the Indians were again assembled, and with all the facts before them they made an agreement to cede to the United States the land to be occupied by this right of way, depot grounds, and water stations, amounting to 771.83 acres, for the sum of \$6,000; said sum to be placed to their credit in the Treasury, at interest, as will more fully appear by reference to said Ex. Doc. 18, in which all the proceedings in this matter are fully set forth.

The Secretary of the Interior reported these proceedings with his approval to the President, and the President has submitted them to Congress for confirmation or rejection.

Your committee do not doubt that they should be confirmed. To construct the line of road in contemplation, it is necessary to cross this reservation; the construction of the road will be of undoubted benefit to the government, to the public, and to these Indians.

The department submits as a part of said Ex. Doc. 18, a bill to carry into effect the agreement above referred to. This bill in substance provides for the ratification of the agreement made with the Indians, for placing to their credit the said sum of \$6,000 in the Treasury, and section 3 grants to the railroad company the right of way over the lands relinquished by the Indians to the United States, upon the condition precedent that the company shall pay to the United States

the said sum of \$6,000 within ninety days after the taking effect of the act. It also provides that the company shall be liable for damages to the United States, or to the Indians, collectively or individually, that may be sustained by the acts of the company, its agents, or employes. It will be observed that, although by the agreement the United States is required to place \$6,000 to the credit of the Indians, this money is in reality paid by the railroad company, so that by this transaction the government is not subjected to any actual outlay of money.

Your committee being thoroughly satisfied that the agreement is one beneficial to the government and the Indians, recommend the passage of the bill.