

SALE OF SAC AND FOX RESERVATION IN KANSAS AND
NEBRASKA.

APRIL 15, 1884.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

R E P O R T :

[To accompany bill H. R. 6658.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, having had under consideration bill H. R. 5350, submit the following report :

The accompanying bill provides for the sale of the Indian reservation of the Sac and Fox Indians, lying in the States of Kansas and Nebraska, and for the removal of the Indians to such reservation as may be secured for them, with their consent, by the Secretary of the Interior.

The lands are valuable, and are located in Brown County, Kansas, and Richardson County, Nebraska, in a fine agricultural section, and are surrounded by finely cultivated farms, and by churches, schools, and thrift and prosperity, and in consequence of which will bring a large sum for their occupants. There are only 8,014 acres of the land, and in its present condition it yields but little to its occupants, and contributes but little to their advancement, comfort, or support; cannot be taxed, alienated or disposed of, and it does not in any way contribute to the growth, development, or material prosperity of the communities of which it constitutes an integral part. There are about seventy-five of these Sac and Fox Indians, the most or nearly all of whom are residing on this reservation. These lands are situated the same as the Iowa Indian lands in Kansas and Nebraska, the condition of which your committee has heretofore reported to the House, recommending their sale substantially as provided for by the provisions of this bill.

Your committee are advised that it is the wish of many of the Sac and Fox Indians that this reservation should be sold, and that the proceeds may be used in the manner provided for in this bill; but if in this your committee are mistaken, the bill is so drawn that nothing can be done under it without the consent of the chiefs, headmen, and male adults of the tribe, and no harm would result from the passage of this bill. The bill provides that the Secretary of the Interior may, with the consent of the Indians, expressed in open council, secure their lands for them upon which to locate, and cause the removal of the Indian tribe, and expend such sum as may be necessary for their comfort and advancement in civilization in so doing.

These Indians wear the American dress, speak the English language, and are quite well qualified for the duties of citizenship and to care for their own, and many of them desire to go to the Indian Territory, where

they think the conditions are more congenial and the opportunities for development and improvement better than upon their present reservation. And yet the bill is so framed that if they should find lands that could be obtained for them where the conditions would be more desirable than in the Indian Territory, such lands could be procured for them by the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of a reservation.

The land now occupied by them is but little cultivated and developed, and has become so valuable in consequence of the development of the surrounding country that, in the judgment of your committee, the proceeds realized from its sale would do very much towards making the Indians comfortable where cheap lands could be obtained for them, and would give them a fund for educational purposes that could be used for their good.

The bill provides that the land shall be appraised by three disinterested appraisers, and shall not be sold at not less than the appraised value, and in no event at less than \$8 per acre. It also provides that such Indians as have improvements on the lands shall be permitted to retain them if they so desire, and shall have certificates of allotment issued to them by the Secretary of the Interior for the land upon which the improvements are situated, as follows: If the head of a family, to 160 acres; if a single man, to 80 acres. The conditions of certificates, and the circumstances under which they may issue, are suggested in the bill as reported by your committee, and it has been prepared with such care as to do justice to the Indians as well as to the purchasers of their lands, and it retains nearly all the important provisions of the original bill.

The bill has also been prepared so as to give the lands to actual settlers who should desire for purposes of cultivation and for a home, and to prevent them from falling into the hands of speculators and those who would hold them, at the expense of the communities, for years as a speculative investment; and, in the judgment of your committee, it is better for the Indians, as well as better for the communities in which the lands are situated, that the land should be disposed of as provided in the bill, and hence your committee report it to the House, recommending its favorable consideration and passage, as a substitute for House bill 5350.