

ROCKY FORK AND COOKE CITY RAILWAY COMPANY.

FEBRUARY 10, 1887.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 10657.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10657) granting to the Rocky Fork and Cooke City Railway Company right of way through a part of the Crow Indian Reservation, in Montana Territory, beg leave to submit the following report:

The Rocky Fork and Cooke City Railway Company was organized under the laws of Montana Territory on the 30th day of December, 1886. The incorporators are James L. Platt, Hamilton Browne, James B. Hubbell, Walter Cooper, and Samuel Word. The object of the bill is to furnish economical transportation to and from the New World Mining District, a country known to be rich in the precious metals, but which, owing to the excessive charges of wagon transportation, cannot be successfully worked and developed. The bill carefully guards the rights of the Government and the Indians, and grants no greater rights than are necessary to the successful operation of the road. Another object of the road is to reach the extensive coal-fields along the line of the road. The present coal famine now existing in that Territory furnishes ample reason for the passing of legislation which will be the means of obviating in any degree a recurrence of the present calamity.

The line of said railroad extends from a point at or near Laurel, on the Northern Pacific Railroad, in Yellowstone County, Montana Territory; thence by the most practicable route to or near the mouth of Rock Creek, commonly called Rocky Fork; thence up said creek to the coal mines near Red Lodge post-office, in Gallatin County, in said Territory; thence by the most practicable route to Cooke City, in said Gallatin County.

Your committee therefore recommend that said bill pass.