

SISSETON AND WAHPETON BANDS OF SIOUX INDIANS.

MARCH 16, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 8561.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs submit the following report on House bill 8561, to accept and ratify an agreement made by the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux Indians, and to grant a right of way for the Chicago, Milwaukee and Saint Paul Railway through the Lake Traverse Reservation in Dakota :

Your Committee on Indian Affairs has had its attention called to the matter of ratifying an agreement entered into between the Chicago, Milwaukee and Saint Paul Railway Company, of the one party, and the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux Indians, of the other party, in 1880.

These bands of Indians occupy a small reservation in Dakota bordering upon Lake Traverse and extending southwestward from said lake.

From the reports upon this subject made by the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated December 12 and 17, respectively, 1885, it appears that the aggregate sum of \$2,402.13 has been paid by the railway company in pursuance of this agreement, and that the sum of \$266.11 remains unpaid under the agreement. The bill herewith presented is prepared with care and amply protects the interests of the Indians.

The President especially calls the attention of the committee to this matter. It appears that this money is now lying idle and is much needed by the Indians to purchase seed, grain, and other things necessary to secure a crop the coming season.

These Indians are among the most advanced of those in the United States.

The railway has long since been constructed, and it is not improper to state that it is a matter of injustice and hardship to the Indians to retain this money longer.

Your committee recommend the passage of the bill herewith presented.