

RIGHT OF WAY THROUGH THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

MAY 5, 1886.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 8594.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, having had under consideration House bill 7243, to grant the right of way through the Indian Territory to the Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska Railway, and for other purposes, report :

That the railroad to which the right of way is sought to be granted by this bill was duly incorporated by the State of Kansas on the 19th day of March, 1886, for the purpose of extending the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway through Kansas and through the Indian Territory. The responsibility and standing of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway are well known, and hence any project supported by it may be regarded as worthy of credit financially and otherwise. Your committee are satisfied that this well-known railway is interested in and is asking for the right of way through the Territory set forth in the bill under consideration.

It is proposed to build two lines of road, extending south from the State of Kansas, one to enter the Territory at or near the city of Hunnewell, in Sumner County, Kansas, extending thence in a southerly direction through the Indian Territory by the most practicable route to Fort Washita in the Chickasaw country, and from thence south in the direction of Galveston, Tex.; another line leaving the State of Kansas at or near the one hundred and first meridian, and from thence by the most practicable route in a southwesterly course in the direction of El Paso, N. Mex.

Your committee have formulated a bill which has been used, which is in harmony with the acts granting the right of way to railroads through the Indian Territory passed by the Forty-eighth Congress, and, as the policy of granting this right of way to railroads has been settled, it is only deemed necessary to inquire into the financial standing of the corporation seeking such privileges, and if satisfied, to report favorably upon such application.

As the bill introduced varies somewhat from the bills heretofore recommended by your committee, they report a substitute for the bill and recommend its passage, and that the original bill lie on the table.