

SALE OF THE RESERVATION OF THE OTOE AND MISSOURIA
TRIBES OF INDIANS IN THE STATES OF NEBRASKA AND
KANSAS.

APRIL 15, 1886.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 7087.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred bill (H. R. 7087) authorizing and directing the Secretary of the Interior to extend the time of payment of the purchase-money on the sale of the reservation of the Otoe and Missouria tribe of Indians, in the States of Nebraska and Kansas, after having carefully considered the provisions of the bill and the necessity of the proposed legislation, recommend the passage of the same.

The reservation was sold in the year 1884 to actual settlers, and in quantities not to exceed 160 acres to any individual, and was made payable in four installments, one-fourth being paid within ninety days from the date of sale. The law provides that when the money is paid into the United States Treasury the Indians are to receive 5 per cent. interest on the same, which amount is to be expended annually for the use of the Indians. The land was sold to the highest bidder, and brought its full value, and by reason of improvements is an absolutely safe security for the money. It was two years before the settlers could realize from the cultivation of the land, and the very low price now paid for agricultural products, and there being no power to mortgage the land because of the title being in the Government, settlers would be required to sacrifice the land unless given an opportunity to save the same by an extension of time to make payments.

The passage of this bill would be an act of justice to the settlers and save the Government from paying the interest which would be paid by the settlers during the extension, while the Indians would lose nothing. There can be no reasonable objection to the passage of the bill.

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