

BIG HORN SOUTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY.

JANUARY 23, 1889.—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. 12150.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred House bill 12150, report the same back with amendments, and as amended recommend its passage.

The Big Horn Southern Railroad Company is a corporation duly incorporated under the laws of the Territory of Montana. It is proposed to construct, operate, and maintain a railroad, telegraph, and telephone line from a point near the mouth of the Big Horn River in Yellowstone County, Mont., thence up the Big Horn and Little Horn Rivers and Owl Creek to the southern boundary line of the Crow Indian Reservation, thence by the most practicable route to the mouth of Rock Creek, in Wyoming Territory.

In the construction of this road it becomes necessary to cross the Crow Indian Reservation in a southeasterly direction about 80 miles. There is no other route by which this section of the country can be reached from the west by a railroad. The construction of this road, as your committee are advised, is demanded by the commercial necessities of the country. Settlements along the proposed line in Wyoming are numerous and growing daily in importance. It will tap a rich agricultural country and furnish the only transportation possible from that section to the West. Aside from these considerations the construction and operation of this road will materially enhance the value of the lands of the Crow Indians, who are now accepting their lands in severalty, and who will have, after all allotments are made, 4,250,000 acres of land in excess of the amount required by them. It will furnish transportation for their products to market, facilitate Government transportation to Fort Custer, and improve the service both to the public and the Government.

The committee unanimously recommend the passage of this bill with the following amendments: Amend section 3 by inserting after the word "way," in line 3, the following: "and grounds adjacent thereto as provided in section 2." Also insert the word "due" after the word "with," in line 17 of said section.

We find that the bill reported is in substance and form such as have passed at the present and preceding sessions of Congress.