

JAMES P. CHASE.

AUGUST 17, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LAFFOON, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 9925.]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9925) for the relief of James P. Chase, report as follows:

That the proof in the case shows that Chase settled upon certain lands in Socorro County, N. Mex., prior to 1876, and erected a building thereon at a cost of between \$4,000 and \$5,000, and carried on the business of a licensed Indian trader to the Indians then on the reservation; that August 9, 1877, the reservation was relinquished and five special sections of the land, including that upon which Chase had settled and made improvements, were surveyed for purpose of disposal under provisions of sections 2122 and 2123, United States Revised Statutes. Such sale has never taken place and Chase has continued in possession of his building and land ever since. The bill was referred to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, who, on June 20, 1888, submitted a report adverse to the bill as introduced, but stated that he could see no reason why claimant should not be allowed to make a homestead entry for 160 acres containing his improvements, and in effect suggesting certain amendments to the bill, which are herewith presented:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

That a subdivisive survey of the special sections of lands embraced in the former Ojo Caliente or Hot Springs Reservation, in Socorro County, N. Mex., be authorized, and James P. Chase be allowed to make a homestead entry of 160 acres of land covering the improvements made by him: *Provided*, That should it be shown that any of the Government buildings are upon the same smallest legal subdivision as are the buildings and improvements of said Chase, that the same be re-appraised and he be allowed to purchase the same at such appraised price: *And provided further*, That said Chase pay the expenses of said subdivisive survey so far as the same may relate to the land claimed and improved by him.

And your committee are of the opinion, in view of all the facts, that this is a proper measure for Congressional relief, and beg to report the bill back with the recommendation that, as amended, the bill do pass.

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