

DULUTH AND WINNIPEG RAILWAY COMPANY.

MAY 29, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 10112.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10112) granting to the Duluth and Winnipeg Railway Company the right of way through the Fond du Lac Indian Reservation, in the State of Minnesota, submit the following report:

The said company being a corporation created and organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota, is anxious and ready to build a railroad from the city of Duluth, in said State, in a northwesterly direction across the State to the international boundary line in the Red River Valley. The course of the road will run through a small Indian reservation about 30 miles west of Duluth, known as the Fond du Lac Reservation, of an area of 156 square miles, or 100,121 acres of poor, rocky, and barren land, partly covered with timber, of which land but 564 acres are tillable, and but 120 acres under actual cultivation. The reservation is occupied by 455 Indians, who during most of the year roam in the surrounding country, and mainly hunt or pick berries for a living.

The bill is in the form that has been adopted and approved in all laws granting rights of way through Indian reservations or Indian country, except the so-called Indian Territory, where the conditions are different. The right of way granted is only 100 feet in width, with the usual station ground for but two stations.

No right of way is acquired till full and ample compensation has been duly awarded and paid both to the tribe and to such individuals as may sustain special damage from the location and operation of the road; and the road shall be located, constructed, and operated with due regard to the rights of the Indians and under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior shall prescribe.

That the right granted shall be forfeited by said company unless the road is constructed through said reservation within three years, and that Congress may at any time amend, add to, alter, or repeal the law.

Your committee can see no objection to the bill, and so recommend its passage.