

SALE OF TIMBER RESERVED FOR MENOMONEE INDIANS.

APRIL 2, 1890.—Referred to the House Calendar, and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 8948.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4647) to authorize the sale of timber on certain lands reserved for the use of the Menomonee tribe of Indians, in the State of Wisconsin, submit the following report:

The Menomonee tribe of Indians occupy a reservation in the State of Wisconsin embracing about 230,000 acres, one-third of which at least is good agricultural land. Upon the balance there is a large body of valuable pine timber, estimated to be worth at least \$2,000,000.

The bill H. R. 4647 (and for which the substitute herewith is recommended) proposed to sell this timber in small lots, at public outcry, to the highest bidder, and no lot to be sold at less than an appraised value, which appraisal was provided for. The plan to thus dispose of the timber was not approved by the Indian Bureau, as it was considered that inasmuch as these Indians have heretofore been permitted to do more or less logging under the provisions of the dead and down timber act, and have thus gained some knowledge and proficiency in the business of logging, that it would be better to allow them to continue to cut and market their standing timber as well as their dead and down timber as they now have a right to do.

To meet the views of the Indian Bureau as well as the wishes of the Indians the accompanying substitute has been prepared. This tribe of Indians have made considerable advancement in civilization and are soon to take lands in severalty under the allotment act; in fact, some of them have substantially done so already. For this reason among others, that they have made such proficiency in learning the business of logging, it is deemed best for their interest to allow them to cut and market their own timber instead of selling it standing.

The substitute provides that the amount received from the net proceeds of the sale of their logs so cut and marketed shall, less 20 per cent., be deposited in the United States Treasury, upon which they shall be paid 5 per cent. interest, to be paid to the tribe annually per capita, and the 20 per cent. not to be deposited shall be used for the benefit of the tribe as the Secretary of the Interior may direct.

The substitute was drawn and its passage recommended by the Indian Office, and as the interests of the Indians are in all respects well guarded, and as its provisions are satisfactory to the Indians, we recommend that the substitute do pass.