

LANDS IN COLORADO LATELY OCCUPIED BY INDIANS.

JULY 23, 1890.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. TOWNSEND, from the Committee on public lands, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1396.]

The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred Senate bill 1396, entitled, "An act relating to lands in Colorado lately occupied by the Uncompahgre and White River Ute Indians," having had the same under consideration make the following report:

It appears that under the act approved June 15, 1880, which provided for the sale of the lands in this bill mentioned, it was provided, "that none of said lands, whether mineral or otherwise, shall be liable to entry and settlement under the provisions of the homestead law; but shall be subject to cash entry only in accordance with existing law."

A number of settlers went upon said lands with the expectation of securing titles under the homestead laws, and who had previously exhausted their right to enter land under the pre-emption laws. This bill provides that actual and bona fide settlers upon these lands may make entry of one quarter section of land by paying therefor \$1.25 per acre at any time after a bona fide residence on said land of two years, proof to be made to the register and receiver under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, notwithstanding they had already exhausted their pre-emption right.

As these lands can only be disposed of under the pre-emption laws, and these settlers innocently settled upon and improved and made homes upon these lands, under the supposition that they could get title under the homestead laws, your committee are of the opinion that a great hardship would be suffered by those settlers unless they can obtain relief, and therefore recommend that the bill do pass.