

OMAHA TRIBE OF INDIANS IN NEBRASKA.

MARCH 8, 1890.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 5974.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs having had under consideration H. R. 5974, "A bill extending the time of payment to purchasers of land of the Omaha tribe of Indians in Nebraska, and for other purposes," respectfully recommend the passage of the bill, with an amendment.

The relief sought by this bill is to allow the purchasers of land on the Omaha Indian Reservation, who purchased this land under and by virtue of an act of Congress approved August 7, 1882, to extend the time for making the first payment of principal until December 1, 1894. These lands were sold in 1883, at a time when real estate was at its highest point in Nebraska, and the land was sold at prices averaging more than \$12 an acre. The purchasers under the law were compelled to erect buildings and improve the land. This has been done in every case. As under the act the money paid by the purchasers is covered into the Treasury and the Omaha Indians receive only the interest thereon, your committee deem it wise to allow the principal to remain in the hands of the purchasers instead of lying idle in the Treasury of the United States. There is no question but that the principal is well secured.

Section 2 of the act allows an entryman who purchased less than 160 acres of land to buy at the appraised value additional lands so that the amount purchased shall not in the aggregate exceed 160 acres as provided in the original act, the lands so purchased to be contiguous to those already secured, and the terms of payment to be the same as in the original act provided.

This is an amendment recommended by the committee, but desired by the settlers, and with this amendment the passage of the bill is recommended.