

RESERVING LANDS IN OKLAHOMA.

APRIL 15, 1892.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WASHINGTON, from the Committee on the Territories, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 7726.]

The Committee on the Territories, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7726) entitled "A bill reserving from entry certain lands in Oklahoma, and for other purposes," having had the same under consideration, respectfully report the bill to the House with the following amendments, and recommend that it do pass.

Amend section 1, line 9, by inserting after the word "manner" the words "and for the time." Strike out all of section 2, and insert the following in lieu thereof:

SEC. 2. That five per centum of the proceeds of the sales of all lands lying within said Territory, which shall be sold by the United States subsequent to the passage of this act, after deducting all the expenses incident to the same, shall be paid to the said Territory to be used as a permanent fund, the interest of which only shall be expended for the support of the common schools within said Territory.

The object of the first section of this bill is to reserve from entry one section in each township in Oklahoma so as to have in reserve a body of land which may be sold after Oklahoma is admitted as a State, and the proceeds used for the erection of public buildings, such as State capitol, penitentiary, asylums for deaf and dumb, blind, insane, and other State institutions.

A similar grant of land, amounting to about half a million acres each, has been granted to all of the States admitted in recent years. It is nothing more than right to place Oklahoma on a footing of equality with the other States and Territories. To do this the land must be reserved from entry now. In the case of the other States the lands were not reserved while they were in a Territorial condition and were not granted until each State was admitted into the Union. The conditions are different in Oklahoma. The lands remaining to be opened for settlement in Oklahoma constitute nearly all the public domain now unappropriated. They are among the richest agricultural lands in the Union, hence the tide of home seekers is so great that every acre of land is entered and settled upon almost as soon as it is opened by proclamation for entry. Therefore if any land is to be reserved for the purposes of this act it must be done at once. It is now too late to reserve anything out of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe lands, which will be opened by proclamation of the President on the 19th of April.

We give a table furnished by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs showing the different bodies of lands which may yet become a part of Oklahoma, and out of which this reserve may be made. The total

acreage is 16,314,427. From this we must deduct the amount of land that will be required for allotment to the Indians, and also the entire Cheyenne and Arapahoe Reservation. That would leave 10,737,896 acres out of which to make the reservation of each sixth section under this bill. In other words, one thirty-sixth of about 11,000,000 acres would be reserved, or say 290,000 acres in round numbers. The bill provides that this land shall not be sold, but shall be leased in quantities and for short periods in accordance with existing law, the rental proceeds to become a part of the school fund. The second section of the bill provides for giving to Oklahoma 5 per cent of the proceeds of all lands sold by the United States in that Territory for the benefit of the common-school fund. This has been done for all the new States after admission into the Union. The same reasons exist for giving this to the Territory of Oklahoma which demand the reservation of lands for State institutions. If we wait until Oklahoma shall be admitted as a State to make this provision, there will be no fund out of which to make it. The lands will all have been sold and paid for. We attach to this report the letter and table from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 12, 1892.

SIR: Pursuant to the request contained in your letter I inclose herewith a tabular statement showing the various Indian reservations in the Territory of Oklahoma not open to public settlement, the area of each in acres, number of Indians on each, and the amount of lands that would be required to allot 160 acres to each Indian.

This statement is made to show the amount of land that will be required to make allotments of *one hundred and sixty* acres to each Indian as you requested; but your attention is invited to the fact that by the agreements with the Kickapoo and Tonkawa Indians provision is made for allotments of only *eighty* acres to each of those tribes. (See Senate Ex. Doc. No. 13, Fifty-second Congress, first session; and House Ex. Doc. No. 72, Fifty-second Congress, first session.)

Very respectfully,

T. J. MORGAN,
Commissioner.

Hon. JOSEPH E. WASHINGTON,
House of Representatives.

Name of reservation.	Acres.	Population.	Amount of land required to allot 160 acres to each Indian.
Cheyenne and Arapahoe*	4,297,771	3,329	552,640
Kansas (or Kaw)	100,137	198	31,680
Kickapoo†	206,466	325	52,000
Kiowa and Comanche	2,968,893	3,064	490,240
Oakland†	90,711	76	12,160
Osage	1,471,058	1,509	241,440
Otoe	129,113	358	57,280
Pawnee	283,020	804	128,640
Ponca	101,894	605	96,800
Wichita†	743,610	1,047	167,520
Cherokee Outlet†	6,022,754
Total	16,314,427	11,815	1,810,400

* Unallotted and unreserved lands will be opened to settlement some time in April, 1892.

† Cession of surplus unallotted land concluded and pending in Congress.