

DIVISION OF THE SIOUX RESERVATION.

JANUARY 28, 1895.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CURTIS, of Kansas, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 8580.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 8580) "to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out, in part, the provisions of 'An act to divide a portion of the reservation of the Sioux Nation of Indians in Dakota into separate reservations, and to secure the relinquishment of the Indian title to the remainder, and for other purposes,' approved March 2, 1889, and making appropriations for the same, and for other purposes," having had the same under consideration, make the following report:

In pursuance of the authority vested in the President of the United States by an act of Congress approved March 2, 1889, a commission was appointed, consisting of Charles Foster, of Ohio, Wm. Warner, of Missouri, and Gen. Geo. Cook, of the United States Army, to present to the Sioux Indians, occupying the great Sioux Reservation, for their consent to the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 2, 1889, entitled "An act to divide a portion of the reservation of the Sioux Nation of Indians in Dakota into separate reservations, and to secure the relinquishment of the Indians' title to the remainder, and for other purposes."

By that act the duty and power of the commission was limited so much so that several questions came up which they had no power to settle, but as the request of the Crow Creek Indians for \$187,039 seemed to be reasonable, the commissioners agreed to recommend that Congress grant it.

In addition to this promise being just it was necessary to obtain the consent of the Indians to the provisions of the act.

The Commission visited the reservations and found that the per capita amount of land in the entire Sioux Reservation is about 906 acres.

In the division made under the act the per capita amount to Pine Ridge is about 563 acres; to Rosebud about 550 acres; to Standing Rock 665 acres; to Cheyenne River 972 acres; to Lower Brule about 442 acres, and to Crow Creek only 260 acres.

The Crow Creeks claim that they should have at least as many acres as the Lower Brule, and it was this great discrepancy that caused the Crow Creek Indians to make the demand and the Commission's the recommendation that the sum of \$187,039 be added to the "permanent fund" of the Crow Creek Indians.

The Commission made the following recommendation in article 4:

An appropriation of \$187,039 is recommended for the benefit of the Indians residing on the Crow Creek Reservation.

The Crow Creek and Lower Brule Indians are given less land per capita than those of any of the other reservations, as is shown by a former part of this report.

The number of Indians upon the Crow Creek Reservation is as great as those on the Lower Brule Reservation, yet the former are allowed 187,039 less acres of land than the latter.

Estimating the land at \$1 an acre would give to them the amount asked for.

The appropriation, if made, should be added to the "permanent fund" of the Crow Creek Indians, and expended for their benefit, as provided in section 17 of the act of March 7, 1889.

In addition to the above the President recommended it in his message of February 10, 1890, and in the report of the honorable Secretary of the Interior a draft of a bill was submitted containing a section making the appropriation recommended by the Commissioner.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has repeatedly recommended that the said sum be appropriated, and the present Commissioner recommended that an item appropriating the above amount be attached to the Indian appropriation bill at the last session of this Congress.

The United States Indian agent, W. W. Anderson, esq., told the Indians if they would agree to the act of Congress that he was sure Congress would at once approve the report of the Commissioners and pay them the \$187,039, and your committee is satisfied that the Crow Creek Indians would never have agreed to the conditions of the act of Congress had it not been for the promise of the Commission and their agent.

Had the Commission failed to obtain the consent of the Crow Creeks between 9,000,000 and 11,000,000 acres of land would not have been opened for settlement. This item has once passed the Senate; it has been nearly six years since the promise was made; the Commissioners asked Congress to keep the promise, and it has been repeatedly recommended by the Indian Office.

Your committee therefore recommends the passage of the bill with the following amendments:

Amend the title so as to read as follows: "A bill for the relief of the Indians of the Crow Creek Reservation in South Dakota, and for other purposes."

In line 4, add the following words, before the word "for," to wit: "in South Dakota."