

KICKAPOO INDIANS IN OKLAHOMA TERRITORY.

JUNE 17, 1892.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 7633.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred H. R. 7633, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to submit the following report:

The Government acquires by this agreement 206,000 acres of valuable land by the payment of the nominal sum of \$64,650.

The land immediately south of it acquired from the Pottawatomie Indians was opened to homestead entry at the price of \$1.50 per acre, and therefore it is thought advisable to charge the settler the same price for this land.

The bill makes ample provisions for the protection of the honest settler.

Fifty-five thousand dollars of the money appropriated is to remain in the Treasury of the United States at 5 per cent interest.

Four thousand four hundred and seventy-eight dollars is to be paid to the Indians per capita and \$5,172 is to be paid to John T. Hill.

The Kickapoo Indians are a very self-reliant, but wild and uncivilized tribe of Indians. They are great traders, intrepid gamblers, and farm in a small way, and are self-supporting.

They have had but little to do with white people and are averse to associating with them. The Cherokee commission made four efforts to make an agreement with them in regard to allotting their lands and selling the surplus. They did not succeed.

The Indians finally called into their council John T. Hill, and after nearly two years of residence and labor with them, suffering many privations, he finally succeeded in bringing about the written agreement, and brought the Indians with the commission to Washington to consult with the Secretary of the Interior.

The Indians in council entered into an agreement with John T. Hill to look after their interest and said agreement lies here approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

It was utterly impossible for the commission to make an agreement with the said Indians, and had it not been for the knowledge that Mr. Hill had of their customs and habits, and the long acquaintance he had with the Indians, and their confidence in him no agreement could have been made.

The section directing the Secretary of the Interior to issue a patent

to Samuel Elza Deweese for the quarter section of land on which he lives is but an act of justice to Mr. Deweese.

Mr. Deweese was appointed a licensed trader for the Kickapoo Indians about three years since. He expended all the money he had in constructing the necessary buildings for conducting his business, a storehouse, residence, stable, and sheds, digging a well, and fencing a small portion of the land. The Indians were moved to another section of the reservation in a short time after he located on the land, and did their trading at the Sac and Fox agency. He therefore was unable to make anything out of the Indians' trade.

The buildings and other improvements will make him a comfortable home provided he can get the land on which they are located; otherwise they would be an entire loss to him, and he simply asks to acquire a title by paying the same price and fees that other homesteaders have to pay for their lands.

He is well aware that unless the Secretary is authorized to issue him a patent for the land a contest will be inaugurated against him which will cost him as much as the land is worth. And Mr. Deweese is unable to make the race for the land, being disabled by the loss of an arm. He has a wife and eight children, and has made a fairly comfortable home for a new country.

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