

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 19, 1888.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. JONES, of Arkansas, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1213.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred House bill 1213, beg leave to report:

The bill was favorably reported from the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives during this session, and we quote as follows from the report of said committee:

The committee find that section 5356 of the Revised Statutes of the United States prescribes the punishment for larceny. The maximum punishment is \$1,000 fine and one year's imprisonment. This has been found inadequate to suppress larceny in the Indian Territory. The States surrounding that country have found it necessary to inflict much severer punishment—the maximum punishment in one State, and perhaps others, being fifteen years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. The result is the thief follows his vocation in the Territory. It is believed the passage of this bill will go far toward deterring his operations in that country.

There are statutes of the United States punishing the robbing of the mails and the robbing of persons of property belonging to the United States, and also in a few other instances robbery is punishable under existing law. It is not intended by this bill to interfere in any way with any existing statutes relating to the crime of robbery.

There is no statute punishing robbery in the Indian country except as stated. This crime is not unfrequently committed in that country. Sometimes the railroad trains are stopped and the railroad companies and express companies and passengers robbed, and the perpetrators can only be punished under the general statute for larceny, the maximum punishment of which is \$1,000 fine and one year's imprisonment. This punishment the committee think incommensurate with the character of offenses stated. The surrounding States have found it necessary to punish this offense much more severely, and the committee think a severer punishment should be inflicted for this class of crimes when committed in the Indian Territory, where lawless and bad men have congregated in great numbers.

The committee have been unable to find any statute punishing the crime of burglary in the Indian Territory, and have therefore recommended an amendment of the second section of the bill, so as to embrace that offense and inflict an appropriate punishment therefor.

This committee recommend that in line 6, section 1, the words "or other domestic animal" be stricken out, and that in line 2 in section 3, after the word "repealed," strike out the words "but said act" and insert the words "Provided, That all such acts and parts of acts," and that as amended the bill shall pass.