

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 27, 1890.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PAYNE, from the Committee on Education and Labor, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 3832.]

The Committee on Education and Labor, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3832) granting lands to the Territory of New Mexico for common school, university, and other purposes, having considered the same, respectfully report:

They find the condition and wants of said Territory very satisfactorily set forth in the following statement, presented by leading officials and citizens, and the committee, on the strength of such representation, recommend the passage of the bill:

STATEMENT.

The New Mexico delegation asks for the favorable consideration of Senate bill 3832, appropriating lands for educational purposes to said Territory for the following reasons, namely:

First. Because the lands asked to be appropriated were acquired from Old Mexico with a large foreign population.

Second. Because the Territory of New Mexico has been held in a Territorial condition for over forty years.

Third. Because there is no immediate prospect of New Mexico becoming a State.

Fourth. Because the people are poor, and are unable to educate themselves by taxation.

A tax sufficient to sustain the schools properly would be a great hardship, for the reason that Congress has failed to settle the land-grant titles, and there is very little real estate in the Territory subject to taxation. We ask for more than is ordinarily given to States, because 80 per cent. of the land is arid, therefore valueless without irrigation; and because fully 50 per cent. of the most valuable land is included within the land grants; and for the reason that for the last twenty years the most valuable land in the Territory has been selected by homesteaders, pre-emptors, cattle and sheep men, and is not now subject to selection; and also because of the large percentage of illiteracy, and because of the large proportion of inhabitants that do not understand the English language.

If we are not permitted to select these lands now for common schools, university, agricultural college, school of mines, and other purposes, the lands left for selection will be comparatively worthless, as more railroads are now approaching the Territory, giving a prospect of an early and large increase of population.

New Mexico has an area of 123,000 square miles; has a population of fully 200,000; has of children of school age fully 70,000. The public records show an enrollment of 43,000 children, which does not include all those in attendance at private and denominational schools, which would add several thousand more. The levy for school purposes at present is three mills on the dollar, which, including the poll-tax, fines, licenses, etc., amounts in all to about \$160,000 per annum. There are in the Territory 342 common schools. Of these 143 are exclusively English, 93 English and Spanish, and 106 exclusively taught in Spanish. The exclusively English schools are taught in the cities; the mixed in the cities and large settlements. Those exclusively taught in Spanish are in the remote settlements off the railroads, where the people are too poor to engage English-speaking teachers.

The native population is very anxious to acquire an English education, and where ever an opportunity is offered they readily take advantage of it. They have made great progress within the past ten years, even with the poor advantages offered. The people desire and prefer free non-sectarian public schools. There is a good public-school system established by the local law, which, with a few amendments, will compare favorably with the common-school law of any State in the Union.

The United States has failed to protect the citizens against the hostile Indians, and until the last four years a large proportion of the able-bodied citizens have been virtually under arms to protect their homes and families, and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been destroyed by hostile Indians and late Confederate troops, and not a dollar has been refunded. The Government has erected no public buildings in the Territory except one court-house, while in many other Territories the Government has erected capitol, penitentiary, and other buildings.

○