

## PRESERVATION OF PREHISTORIC MONUMENTS, ETC.

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APRIL 21, 1900.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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MR. SHAFROTH, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10451.]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10451) for the preservation of the prehistoric monuments, ruins, and objects on public lands, beg leave to report that there is situated in the States of Colorado and Utah and in the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico a large number of monuments and cliff dwellings, which are the work of prehistoric man.

These monuments and cliff dwellings indicate that a highly civilized race hundreds of years before the discovery of America occupied this portion of the United States, and built pretentious dwellings, castles, forts, and palaces in that region of the United States.

The character of the buildings and of the pottery and utensils used by them indicate that they were a much superior race to the Indians, who afterwards inhabited that country.

These ruins are of the greatest interest to the students of archaeological science. A great many books have been published with reference to the ruins in that portion of the United States, and the subject is not only one of interest to students here, but also to scientists of the entire world.

These ruins are located a considerable distance from the railroad, and up to this time have not been ruined or destroyed, but they are being visited each year by more people, and consequently the destruction of them is taking place more and more each year.

The various archaeological societies are very much interested in the preservation of these ruins, and the only practical way they can be preserved is by creating reservations of the land surrounding each ruin, and providing a penalty for any destruction of the same.

The bill referred to has been drawn by the committee, after obtaining suggestions from the Ethnological Bureau of the Smithsonian Institution and from the Interior Department of the Government.

The bill proposes to set apart and reserve from sale reservations upon which monuments, cliff dwellings, cemeteries, mounds, forts, or any other work of prehistoric or aboriginal man to the extent of not exceeding 320 acres to each reservation, and provides that each reservation shall be surveyed. It places these reservations under the care of the Secretary of the Interior, who shall make rules and regulations relative to the same.

It permits the excavation and investigation of the ruins by the Smithsonian Institution, and by reputable museums, universities, and colleges. It provides a penalty for any injury, destruction, or carrying away of any aboriginal antiquity, monument, or ruin.

It provides that the severing of any prehistoric object from the reservation and carrying it away shall not give to the holder any lawful right or title thereto, but the Secretary of the Interior, with his discretion, is given the authority to recover the same.

It provides that the Secretary of the Interior may acquire such parts of reservations as may be owned by any person for a sum of not exceeding \$2.50 per acre.

The committee is of the opinion that the bill will preserve the prehistoric ruins and that the excavation and investigation of the same by archæological students will be of great benefit to that branch of knowledge.

Your committee recommend that the following amendments shall be made:

After the word "lands" in the title of said bill insert the words "in the States of Colorado and Utah and in the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico."

Also, after the word "lands" in the fifth line of the first page of said bill, insert the words "in the States of Colorado and Utah and in the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico."

After the word "apart" in the fifth line of the third page of said bill, insert the words "or sought to be set apart."

For the foregoing reasons your committee recommend the passage of said bill as amended herein.