

INSPECTION OF BATTLE FIELDS OF BRICES CROSS- ROADS AND TUPELO, IN MISSISSIPPI

JULY 1, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. McSWAIN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted
the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 12640]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 12640) to provide for the inspection of the battle field of Brices Crossroads, Miss., and the battle field of Tupelo, or Harrisburg, Miss., having considered the same, report thereon with the recommendation that it do pass.

The battle fields of Brices Crossroads and of Tupelo, or Harrisburg, are within about 20 miles of each other. These battles constituted the culmination of one of the great campaigns of the Civil War, which had two objects in view. The first was to keep General Forrest, the great cavalry leader of the Confederacy, off the rear of General Sherman in his march to the sea, and the second was to destroy the cornfields of the rich prairie lands of northeastern Mississippi, which was known as the granary of the Confederacy. The Federals succeeded in holding General Forrest off the rear of General Sherman, but failed to accomplish the destruction of the cornfields throughout the prairie belt above referred to.

They were two of the hardest fought battles of the war, and there were engaged in each between twenty and thirty thousand men. There were more men killed in each one of these battles than were killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill, and more killed at Brices Crossroads than were killed in the first Battle of Bull Run.

The first of these battles was a Confederate victory and the second was a victory for the Federal forces.

It is necessary to get a survey of these battle fields now before all of the old soldiers who participated in these engagements are dead, in order that a correct picture of them may be preserved for placing markers, monuments, etc., in the future.

INSPECTION OF BATTLE FIELDS OR BRICES CROSS-ROADS AND TUPelo IN MISSISSIPPI

JOHN J. 1928. Committed to the Committee of the House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. McSwain from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 12810]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 12810) to provide for the inspection of the battle field of Brices Cross-roads, Miss., and the battle field of Tupelo, or Hattisburg, Miss., having considered the same, report thereon with the recommendation that it do pass.

The battle field of Brices Cross-roads and of Tupelo, or Hattisburg, are within about 20 miles of each other. These battles constituted the culmination of one of the great campaigns of the Civil War, which had two objects in view. The first was to keep General Sherman, the great cavalry leader of the Confederacy, off the rear of Federal Sherman, in his march to the sea, and the second was to destroy the battle fields of the rich pine lands of northeastern Mississippi, which was known as the granary of the Confederacy. The Federals succeeded in holding General Sherman off the rear of General Sherman, but failed to accomplish the destruction of the battle fields throughout the entire belt above referred to.

There were two of the hardest fought battles of the war, and there were engaged in each between twenty and thirty thousand men. There were more men killed in each one of these battles than were killed at the battle of Gettysburg, and more killed at Brices Cross-roads than were killed in the first battle of Bull Run.

The first of these battles was a Confederate victory and the second was a victory for the Federal forces.

It is necessary to get a survey of these battle fields now before all of the old soldiers who participated in these engagements are dead, in order that a correct picture of them may be preserved for placing markers, monuments, etc., in the future.