

FUNDS OF THE MIAMI INDIANS.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A letter from the Secretary of the Interior, accompanied by a draft of a bill authorizing the use of certain funds belonging to the Miami Indians in the Indian Territory.

FEBRUARY 4, 1886.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I transmit herewith a communication, of 3d instant, from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting, with accompanying papers, a draft of a bill authorizing the use of certain funds belonging to the Miami Indians in Indian Territory, proceeds of sales of their lands, for the purpose of relieving their present pressing necessities.

The matter is presented for the consideration and action of Congress.
GROVER CLEVELAND.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
February 4, 1886.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 3, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a copy of a letter, of 29th ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs inclosing copy of a petition of members of the Western band of the Miami tribe of Indians of Quapaw Agency, residing upon the Miami and Peoria lands in the Indian Territory, presented through their agent, in which they set forth their destitute condition, from the loss of their crops and stock during the last season, and ask that, for the relief of their necessities, the funds now standing to their credit, proceeds of lands in Kansas, under act of March 3, 1873 (17 Stat., 631), may be paid to them per capita.

The Commissioner reports the amount of the funds now due these Indians from sales of lands to be \$18,990, and he incloses, with recommendation, a draft of a bill providing for the use of \$9,495 from said fund, to be paid to said Indians per capita, or to be expended for their benefit in

such other manner as the Secretary of the Interior may consider for their best interests and welfare.

I respectfully recommend that the matter may be presented to Congress, for the consideration and action of that body.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. Q. C. LAMAR,

The PRESIDENT.

Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 29, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to present herewith copy of a petition of the Western Miami tribe of Kansas Indians, at the Quapaw Agency, Indian Territory, in which they set forth their destitute condition, owing to the destruction of their crops by web-worm, loss of cattle by Texas fever, and hogs and horses by some unknown disease, also other losses on account of flood, which has left them in distressed circumstances for this year, and which will continue until crops can be made another year.

In order to relieve their necessities they request that the amount standing to their credit as proceeds of sale of their lands in Kansas, under act approved March 3, 1873 (Stats. 17, p. 631), be paid to them in cash per capita, or be expended for them as the Secretary may direct.

The said Indians now have to their credit a fund amounting to \$18,990, and as no portion thereof can be paid to them without legislation, I inclose herewith a draft of a bill for their relief, authorizing the payment of one-half of said sum per capita, or its expenditure in such manner as the Secretary may consider best for their interest and welfare, which I respectfully recommend may receive the approval of the Department, and be forwarded to Congress for early action of that body.

Very respectfully,

J. D. C. ATKINS,

Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

A BILL for the relief of the Western Miami Indians of Kansas.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause to be paid to the Western Miami Indians of Kansas, in the Indian Territory, out of the land fund to their credit in the United States Treasury, in cash, per capita, or to be expended in such other manner as he may consider best for their interest and welfare, the sum of \$9,495, in order to relieve their pressing wants and necessities, occasioned by the destruction of their crops, and loss of cattle, hogs, and horses by disease, during the summer and fall of the year 1885.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
QUAPAW AGENCY, IND. TER.,

November 23, 1885.

Hon. JOHN D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.:

SIR: I have the honor to hand you a petition from the Miami tribe of Indians of this agency.

From all I can learn they are very poorly supplied with the necessaries of life for this winter.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. V. SUMMERS,
United States Indian Agent.

Official copy.

E. S. WOOD,
Chief Finance Division.

The Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR: We, the undersigned, members of the Western Miami tribe of Indians, late of Kansas, now residing on the Peoria and Miami Indian lands, in Quapaw Indian Agency, Indian Territory, now assembled in council, according to the custom of our tribe, this 18th day of November, A. D. 1885, at the house of our head chief, David Geboe, would most respectfully represent that our people are in sore need of money, as greater part of our crops were destroyed this year by Webb worm and our cattle dying off with Texas fever; also, losing our horses and hogs by some disease and flood, it has left us and our people in distressing circumstances for this year, and will be the case till we can make crops next year; therefore we earnestly and sincerely ask you to have the proceeds of the sale of our unallotted lands in Kansas, amounting to over sixteen thousand dollars, and our grazing-tax money, be paid to our tribe per capita as soon as possible; but if said funds cannot be paid without an appropriation first had by Congress, then we ask that the said sums of money be included in the general Indian appropriation bill at the next session of Congress, to be available immediately at the passage of said bill and be paid to our tribe without unnecessary delay to aid us and our people in making our improvements, crops, &c. We also hereby protest against paying more of our moneys to G. A. Colton.

We respectfully remain, your humble wards,

David Geboe, first chief; Charles S. Welsh, second chief; Thomas Miller, his x mark; G. W. Leonard, M. A. Billington, Lizzie Palmer, Josephene Fulker-son, Mary B. Geboe, Mary L. Leonard, her x mark; Margret Bright, Mary Shapp, Susett Crawfish, Emma Lafalier, her x mark; Rosan Burt-land, her x mark; Sophie Bluejackett, Mary Richardville, her x mark; Jane Drake, her x mark; Louis Miller, John Miller.

Witness to the marks and signatures.

T. F. RICHARDVILLE.

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