

INDIAN DEPREDATIONS.

MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW MEXICO,

IN RELATION TO

*Indian depredations in that Territory.*

MARCH 13, 1867.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

*To the honorable the Congress of the United States of America :*

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of New Mexico, would respectfully represent that in 1847 by a revolution, and by Indian depredations since that period, many of our citizens have met with loss of life and property. By the reports which are on file in the office of the secretary of the Territory the loss of life and property is as follows: 123 persons killed, 32 persons wounded, 21 persons taken captive; property stolen, 3,559 horses, mules, and asses, 13,473 head of cattle, and 294,740 head of sheep and goats; valued at the total sum of one million three hundred and seventy-seven thousand three hundred and twenty-nine dollars and sixty cents, (\$1,377,329 60.)

In 1847, when General Kearney took possession of New Mexico, in his proclamation to the people, he promised on the part of the United States protection to our people against such losses, and the government of the United States solemnly ratified that promise afterwards by a treaty.

Nearly twenty years have expired since our Territory was received as such by treaty, and the protection of the United States pledged to us, and during all that number of years our people have been suffering unceasingly from the loss of life and property occasioned by the incursions made upon them by the tribes of hostile Indians, notwithstanding the vigilance and efforts of ourselves and the troops of the government.

Such has been the condition of affairs in this Territory for a series of years, and although some provisions have been made by the Congress of the United States to reimburse such of our citizens as have been robbed by the savages of their property, it has as yet been found impracticable, on account of the complicated requisites of the law upon the subject, for those who have suffered the loss to comply with the requirements of the law in making up their claims for indemnification.

Your memorialists, in view of the facts above mentioned, and the impossibility of remedying them under existing laws, would most respectfully request that a sufficient appropriation be made by your honorable body to indemnify the sufferers, and that a board of commissioners be created, to consist of three persons

appointed by the honorable Secretary of the Interior Department, to hear the complaints of our people, to examine the testimony presented to establish the losses our citizens have suffered by the revolution of 1847 and the Indian depredations since that period, and to report to the Secretary of the Interior Department the amount that shall be paid to the people of New Mexico, so that those who are rightfully entitled may receive their just dues.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

*Resolved by the council*, (the house of representatives concurring therein.) That the honorable secretary of the Territory be, and is hereby, requested to forward certified copies of the foregoing to his Excellency the President of the United States, to the honorable Secretary of the Interior Department, to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the chairmen of the Committees on Indian Affairs of Congress, and to the honorable J. Francisco Chaves, our delegate in Congress.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Territory of New Mexico :*

I, W. F. M. Arny, secretary and acting governor of New Mexico, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original, now on file in my office, as passed by the legislative assembly of the Territory of New Mexico at its present session.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed my official seal this 16th day of January, A. D. 1867.

[SEAL.]

W. F. M. ARNY,  
*Secretary and Acting Governor of New Mexico.*