## SAC AND FOX INDIAN TRUST LANDS.

## LETTER

FROM

## THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN ANSWER TO

A resolution of the House of Representatives of the 13th instant, relative to Sac and Fox Indian trust lands,

FEBRUARY 24, 1869.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, Washington, D. C., February 22, 1869.

SIR: In reply to the House resolution of the 13th instant, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated the 19th instant, giving the required information.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
O. H. BROWNING. Secretary.

Hon. Schuyler Colfax, Speaker House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, GENERAL LAND OFFICE, Washington, D. C., February 19, 1869.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive from the department the copy of House resolution asking why the Sac and Fox Indian trust lands in Kansas, ceded by treaty of October 14, 1868, have not been offered for

sale, and asking for report.

In reply, I respectfully state: 1st. That this office is without competent authority to deal with those lands until specially advised so to do by the department proper. 2d. That on the 3d ultimo, the Secretary transmitted a list of the lands "in order that the lands therein described may be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the amended 5th article of the treaty." 3d. That these instructions were interpreted into authority to dispose of the lands under the public land laws, at not less than \$1 50 per acre. And 4th. That in conformity therewith, instructions were issued to the local land officers at Topeka, Kansas,

directing them to open to pre-emption settlement the lands indicated in the list.

In connection with this subject, I would respectfully refer to our letter of the 17th instant to the department. I have the honor to return the resolution with this report, and to be

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOS. S. WILSON, Commissioner.

Hon. O. H. BROWNING, Secretary of the Interior,