

LETTER
FROM THE
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TO THE

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,

ACCOMPANYING

A copy of a memorial of the Indians of Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations, in the State of New York, protesting against the passage of the House bill 1053, entitled "An act to authorize the Cattaraugus and Allegany Indians in the State of New York to lease lands, confirm leases, and quiet titles to their lands."

FEBRUARY 24, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., February 20, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to present, for the consideration and action of Congress, a copy of a memorial of the Indians of the Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations in New York, remonstrating against the passage of any law authorizing the sale of any part of such reservations without the consent of said Indians, owning the same, being first had and obtained, &c.

A copy of the letter, dated the 5th instant, of D. Sherman, agent for the New York Indians, forwarding said memorial, and a copy of a letter dated the 18th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, inclosing the papers to this Department, are also herewith transmitted.

Very respectfully,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

HON. WM. A. BUCKINGHAM,
Chairman Committee Indian Affairs, United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., February 18, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, two copies of a memorial of the Indians of Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations in New

York, received at this office, with letter of United States Indian Agent D. Sherman, dated the 5th instant, (copies also herewith,) which it is respectfully requested may be submitted to Congress for the consideration and action of that body.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWD. P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

NEW YORK INDIAN AGENCY,
Forrestville, New York, February 5, 1874.

SIR: I send you by mail a memorial of the Indians of Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations, expressing the views of the memorialists on the subjects embraced in House bill No. 1053, relating to the leasing of lands on such reservations and other things, and containing a request to you to present same to the President for reference to Congress.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. SHERMAN,
Agent.

Hon. EDW. P. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Memorial of the Indians of the Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations in the State of New York, to the President and the honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

We, the undersigned, Indians residing upon the Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations in the State of New York, respectfully and earnestly remonstrate against the passage of any law by Congress authorizing the sale of any part of such reservations without the consent of said Indians, owning same, being first had and obtained; that we would regard such a law as in violation of existing treaty stipulations between the United States and the Seneca Nation of Indians.

And we further respectfully represent that the said Indians are unanimously opposed to the sale of any portion of their reservations.

And we further respectfully remonstrate against the passage of any law by Congress confirming leases made by individual Indians, not confirmed by the council of the Seneca Nation of Indians, of such reservations.

And we further represent that said Seneca Nation of Indians having heretofore, through their legislative council, duly elected by ballot, leased certain portions of their lands to certain railroad companies for right of way and for railroad purposes, and such companies having paid said Seneca Nation therefor, and said companies having built railroads and erected valuable railroad buildings on such leased lands for business purposes and the accommodation of the traveling public, we deem that it would be just for Congress to confirm such leases, and we respectfully recommend the passage of a law for that purpose.

We also hereby beg leave to express our most sincere gratitude and thanks to our Great Father, the President, and to the honorable Senate and House of Representatives, for the humane and beneficial policy heretofore adopted in providing for the education of our children, and for

our civilization and improvement, and especially for the generous appropriations heretofore made by Congress for such purposes, and that our people everywhere, to secure their future advancement, stand greatly in need of the continuance of such aid as well as of the friendly counsel and assistance of all good men.

And we, the undersigned, representing as we think the best interests of our people, and their best intelligence, do hereby appoint, on account of their personal disinterestedness, their discretion, integrity, experience, and intimate knowledge of our affairs, Moses Stevenson, counsellor of the Seneca Nation of Indians, and Nicholson H. Parker, United States interpreter, as our delegates to represent our views on the subjects embraced in the House of Representatives bill No. 1053, entitled "A bill to authorize the Cattaraugus and Allegany Indians in the State of New York to lease lands, confirm leases, and quiet titles to their lands," to our Great Father, the President, and to the honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

And we hereby request the United States agent for the Indians of New York to forward this our memorial to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs for presentation to our Great Father, the President, and for reference to the honorable Senate and House of Representatives, having such bill under consideration.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

Dated and signed at the Cattaraugus reservation, New York, this 3d day of February, A. D. 1874.

HIRAM DENNIS,
Chairman of Council.
MOSES B. PIERCE,
Secretary of Council.

William Jamieson.
Job Ring.
Z. L. Jameson.
Peter White.
Daniel Two Gulls.
Wm. John, his x mark.
Wm. G. Parker.
Charles Kennedy.
Amos Moses.
N. H. Parker.
Lewis Seneca.
David Tallchief, his x mark.
Jabez Stevenson.
Little Joe, his x mark.
David Snow, his x mark.
George Tallchief.
Wm. Bluesky.
Alonzo Pierce.
Lorenzo Sanderson, his x mark.
John Wilson, his x mark.
Jonathan Waterman, his x mark.
Thomas Jameson.
Marion Crouse.
Loseph Dudley.
David White.
Sylvester C. Lay.

Hanover Spring.
T. F. Jamison.
Isaac Warrior, his x mark.
Gilbert Butler, his x mark.
George Warrior, his x mark.
Jabez Jones, his x mark.
David Button, his x mark.
Parson Sundown, his x mark.
John Jackson, his x mark.
Alfred Silverheels, his x mark.
Edward Johnson, his x mark.
Alfred Crouse.
Israel Snow, his x mark.
Gordon Fatty, his x mark.
Major Harris, his x mark.
Robert Gordon, his x mark.
Jacob Halfton.
Sam Joe, his x mark.
William Bennett.
William Tallchief, his x mark.
Samuel Johnson, his x mark.
Jack Doxtator, his x mark.
Thomas Kennedy.
Nathaniel Kennedy.
Moses Stevenson.
James Spring.

I, Daniel Sherman, agent for the Indians of the State of New York,

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hereby certify that I was present at the council of the Seneca Indians, held in pursuance of public notice, at the council-house on the Cattaraugus reservation, in the State of New York, on the 3d day of February, A. D. 1874; that the foregoing memorial was read in open council and duly interpreted to the Indians present thereat, and the matters therein stated were discussed at length by the said Indians, and the same was thereupon adopted by a unanimous vote of the Indians present at such council, there being no votes in opposition thereto; and that thereupon the above, residing on said reservation, severally subscribed their names to such memorial in my presence; and I know that such signatures are genuine; that the Indians signing same are among the most intelligent and educated, and fairly represent the most advanced civilizations of the Indians of such reservations.

Dated February 3, 1874.

D. SHERMAN,
Agent for the Indians of New York.

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