

L E T T E R

FROM

C H E R O K E E D E L E G A T I O N ,

[APRIL 8, 1880],

INCLOSING

*Amendment desired to be offered to the Indian appropriation bill advancing \$500,000 to Cherokee Nation, on account of lands belonging to them west of the Arkansas River, sold by the United States, with inclosures.*

APRIL 23, 1880.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 8, 1880.

HON. RICHARD COKE,  
*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,  
Senate of the United States :*

SIR: We have the honor herewith of submitting to you, for the consideration and action of your committee and of Congress, a copy of an act of the National Council of the Cherokee Nation, under which our delegation are instructed to borrow for immediate use the sum of \$500,000 to relieve the destitution and suffering of the Cherokee people, caused by the failure of their crops during the past season by reason of the drought that prevailed in our nation, with the *proviso* that the funds thus advanced by the Government of the United States will be deducted out of the funds now due the Cherokee Nation for our lands in the Indian Territory west of the Arkansas River, and for the prompt payment of which the Secretary of the Interior has recently sent his estimates to Congress, and which, we are advised, is now before your committee. Also, we submit a copy of a letter from our principal chief, Hon. D. W. Bushyhead, showing the present destitution and suffering of our people, and the certainty that these privations will result in *absolute distress* among our people before the incoming of their next crops unless they are relieved. We are also daily receiving letters from all sections of our nation advising us of the suffering of our people for the want of breadstuffs, and urging us to early action for their relief, and we respectfully ask that you give the matter your most early and favorable action.

*The fact cannot be disguised that our people are bound to have early relief, and if you find any difficulty in authorizing the government to advance the funds required for their immediate relief upon the terms named, then we respectfully request and appeal to you to at once appropriate this amount, \$500,000, to be immediately paid per capita to our people, out of the funds due our nation for our lands west of the Arkansas River*

in the Indian Territory, in *advance* of the full amount *estimated* for as stated, leaving the balance due for said lands to be appropriated in the regular order of business during the present session.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

W. P. ADAIR,  
Assistant Principal Chief.  
JNO. L. ADAIR,  
Chairman.  
R. M. WOLFE,  
R. BUNCH,  
Cherokee Delegation.

[Published by authority.]

No. 23.

AN ACT to provide breadstuffs for the Cherokee people.

Whereas by reason of the protracted drought during the past season many of the citizens of the Cherokee Nation have failed to raise breadstuffs, and as a consequence many of the poorer classes of the people will experience much suffering unless provided for by the nation; therefore,

*Be it enacted by the National Council*, That the delegation in Washington, recently appointed under the provision of the act entitled "An act appointing a delegation," approved November 25th, 1879, be, and they are hereby, instructed to negotiate a loan with the Government of the United States, to enable the Cherokee Nation to borrow the sum of five hundred thousand dollars from the Government of the United States, for the purpose of purchasing breadstuffs sufficient to subsist the citizens of the Cherokee Nation until the maturing of their crops in the next year, 1880.

*Be it further enacted*, That the funds obtained under the provisions of this act shall be paid out *per capita* to the whole people of the Cherokee Nation on the census-roll of the census of the Cherokee Nation to be taken in 1880, as provided for in section 3 of the amendment to Article III of the Constitution.

The amount borrowed from the Government of the United States shall be refunded to said government out of the proceeds of the Cherokee lands in the Indian Territory lying west of the Arkansas River.

Tahlequah, C. N., Dec. 3, 1879.

Approved.

D. W. BUSHYHEAD,  
Principal Chief.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
CHEROKEE NATION, INDIAN TERRITORY,  
Tahlequah, March 9, 1880.

GENTLEMEN: The destitute condition of many families of this nation causes me much anxiety, and being aware that the National Council did all that was possible last fall to supply our people with breadstuffs when it empowered you to negotiate with the general government for a loan of money to be used for relief purposes, I desire now to press upon your attention the need therefor, and to urge upon you the necessity of as prompt action as may be practicable.

Reports from various localities and from reliable sources continually come to me, unvarying in representing the complete lack of bread among many of our fellow citizens, owing to the local drouths of last year, and the consequent entire failure of many crops. I am besides made personally aware of the extensive destitution prevailing by incessant complaints and appeals for relief made to myself. Acting upon the suggestion of these facts, I have also made inquiry in regard to the degree of necessity represented, and I have no hesitation in assuring you that the destitution is in very many cases severe, unusual, and increasing from the cause above mentioned. It will be a half year before the next crop can be made available for bread, and in the meantime the means of supplying it must decrease as the want increases until relief is obtained. I advise you of the pressing nature of the present emergency, confident that your efforts will be redoubled to obey your instructions in the premises, and thus pre-

vent the disastrous consequences that are likely to result from the condition of suffering represented unless relief be secured in time.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 D. W. BUSHYHEAD,  
*Principal Chief.*

Hon. W. P. ADDIE, *Assistant Chief.*  
 J. L. ADAIR.  
 RICHARD M. WOLFE.  
 R. BUNCH.  
*Cherokee Delegates, Washington City.*

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
 County of Washington, ss:

I hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy with the original letter of D. W. Bushyhead, principal chief, dated March 9, 1880, and addressed to the Cherokee delegation at Washington, and that it is a true copy of the same.

Witness my hand and seal at Washington, D. C., this 5th day of April, A. D. 1880.  
 CHAS. S. LUSK,  
*Notary Public.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 10, 1880.

Hon. RICHARD COKE,  
*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, Senate of the United States:*

SIR: In compliance with your suggestion through your secretary, we have the honor of submitting a *project* of an *amendment* that we desire your committee to recommend, to be appended to the general Indian appropriation bill when that bill comes to the Senate from the House. We suggest this as the earliest method of getting the appropriation, as a *separate* bill, under all the parliamentary rules of Congress, might possibly fail to pass this session of Congress.

If you concur in our views, as we trust you will, we will be under very many obligations to you and your honorable committee—if you will have the matter ready for the Indian appropriation bill when that bill reaches the Senate. We have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your obedient servants and friends,

W. P. ADAIR,  
*Assistant Principal Chief.*  
 JNO. L. ADAIR,  
 R. M. WOLFE,  
 R. BUNCH,  
*Cherokee Delegation.*

P. S.—The *blank* as to *date* of estimates referred to in the *project* we submit can be filled from the estimates sent you by the Secretary of the Interior.—DELEGATION.

For this amount, to be expended as the national council for the Cherokee Nation may direct, to relieve the destitution of the Cherokee people caused by the failure of their crops the past season by reason of the drought, \$500,000; to be paid out of the funds due said nation for its lands in the Indian Territory west of the Arkansas River, as per estimates of the Secretary of the Interior, of \_\_\_\_\_, 1880.

*Cherokee cession west of the Arkansas River, Indian Territory.*

Unoccupied lands:

	Square miles.	Acres.
East of Pawnee.....	165	105,456
Between Arkansas River, Pawnees, and Cimarron.....	5,867½	3,765,488
West of Cimarron.....	3,562	2,279,613
<b>Occupied lands:</b>		
Pawnees.....	35½	223,026
Ponca.....	175	101,894
Nez Percés.....	142	90,735
Aggregate.....	10,271	6,626,217

