

LOYAL INDIANS AND FREEDMEN OF THE CREEK NATION.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

ASKING FOR

*An appropriation for the payment of losses sustained by soldiers who enlisted in the federal army, and loyal refugee Indians and freedmen of the Creek nation, during the rebellion.*

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MARCH 23, 1870.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., March 22, 1870.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a copy of a communication of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 16th instant, in relation to the payment of losses sustained by soldiers who enlisted in the federal army, and loyal refugee Indians and freedmen of the Creek nation, during the rebellion, recommending that the sum of \$100,000 be appropriated by Congress, with a view to the payment of said persons referred to; to which subject the favorable consideration of Congress is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
W. T. OTTO,  
*Acting Secretary.*

HON. JAS. G. BLAINE,  
*Speaker House of Representatives.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., March 16, 1870.*

SIR: By the fourth article treaty of June 16, 1866, with the Creeks, (St. 14, p. 787,) it is provided that a census of the Creeks shall be taken by the agent of the United States for that nation, and that a roll shall be made by him of the names of all soldiers that enlisted in the federal army, loyal refugee Indians and freedmen; that the superintendent of Indian affairs for the southern superintendency and said agent shall investigate and determine from said roll the amounts due the respective refugee Indians for losses sustained by them during the rebellion, and shall

transmit to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for his approval and that of the Secretary of the Interior, their awards; and that in case the awards so made shall be duly approved, they shall be paid to the extent of \$100,000 from the proceeds of the sale of the lands, as provided in the third article of said treaty, within one year from the ratification of the treaty, or as soon as said sum of \$100,000 can be raised from the sale of lands to other Indians.

General W. B. Hazen, the superintendent of Indian affairs for said superintendency, and Captain F. A. Field, the agent for the Creeks, under instructions from this office, have investigated all or nearly all of the claims in question, and have reported their awards to this bureau, in accordance with the terms of said fourth article of the treaty. The claims so far investigated amount in the aggregate to \$5,090,808 50, and the awards made by the superintendent and agent amount to \$1,836,830 41. To pay these awards and such others as may be made, the treaty provides the sum of \$100,000, to be taken from the proceeds of the sale of lands to other Indians.

In the third article of the treaty made with the Seminoles, March 21, 1866, (St. 14, pp. 756 and '7,) it is provided that, in consideration of the cession of their lands, the United States shall pay the sum of \$325,362. It also provides for the cession of 200,000 acres of land to the Seminoles, out of the lands ceded to the United States by the Creeks, in consideration of which cession the Seminoles agree to pay the price of fifty cents per acre, amounting to \$100,000. This sum of \$100,000 was deducted from the item of \$325,362 agreed to be paid the Seminoles, and the balance—\$225,362—was appropriated by Congress, in 1866, except of \$70,000 thereof, on which interest was appropriated, and disposed of as stipulated in said third article; it is the only proceeds derived from the sale of lands to other Indians as provided in said treaty with the Creeks, and consequently the only money that can be used to pay the awards made to the soldiers, &c., referred to in the fourth article of the Creek treaty.

Said sum of \$100,000, however, will have to be appropriated by Congress before such payment can be made; and in order that this may be done at an early day, so that said soldiers, loyal refugees, and freedmen may be paid as soon as possible, I respectfully recommend that the matter be submitted to Congress with the view of having the necessary appropriation made.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. PARKER,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. J. D. Cox,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*