

STRAY BANDS OF INDIANS.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*A copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in relation to the removal of stray bands of Pottawatomie and Winnebago Indians in Wisconsin.*

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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, dated the 16th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying papers, relating to the removal of "stray bands of Pottawatomie and Winnebago Indians in Wisconsin," from their present homes in that State to the tribes to which they respectively belong.

The Commissioner estimates that the sum of \$67,000 will be necessary to defray the expenses incident to the removal of the Indians referred to; and I respectfully recommend that the subject may receive the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. OTTO,  
*Acting Secretary.*

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

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

SIR: In regard to the stray bands of Pottawatomie and Winnebago Indians in Wisconsin, whose removal therefrom to the reservation of the tribe to which they belong, the former in Kansas and the latter in Nebraska, has frequently been made the subject of petitions and requests from citizens of Wisconsin, and more particularly by communications from Governor Fairchild, C. Young, and others, dated the 25th January and 11th February last, which have been referred here from your department for a report thereon, I beg leave to remark that the matter of the removal of these Indians from where they now reside to their proper

home, has at different times within the past few years been brought to the consideration of this office; but nothing definite has ever been determined upon in reference thereto.

These bands are remnants of their tribes that were removed years ago to the west of the Mississippi River, and comprise those who avoided the efforts of the government to remove them, or those who refused to accompany their tribe, and some who, after being removed, returned to their old home. It is understood they are averse to leaving Wisconsin; and it might perhaps be necessary to use force to accomplish their removal. I agree with my predecessor, Hon. N. G. Taylor, in the opinion expressed by him in his report to you of the 8th of April last, that as they have no lands in Wisconsin, and are not likely, under the circumstances surrounding them, to abandon their old habits and become an agricultural people, and as they are constantly giving occasion to the citizens of the State for complaint, and causing demands for their removal, they would be better off were they joined with their people who are residing west of the Mississippi; and I renew the recommendation then made, that measures be taken for their removal out of the State at an early day. If this be not practicable, I see not what else can be done than to care for them as at present, under the charge of a special agent of the government, and with the help of an annual appropriation by Congress; or that there shall be set apart in the country they now inhabit a suitable reservation, to which they shall be restricted, and such assistance afforded as may be requisite to put them in the way of becoming a self-sustaining people. Such a reservation might—in the event of the Chippewas of Lake Superior, who have four reservations in Minnesota and three in Wisconsin, disposing of all their lands except the reservation on Bad River, Wisconsin, which has been suggested by their agent as best for the interest of these Indians, and which measure I am in favor of recommending for the action of Congress—be provided, by giving them one of the tracts thus obtained from that tribe.

I am, however, satisfied it will be best, both for the Indians and citizens, that these stray bands be removed entirely from Wisconsin, and favor the effort at once to effect it as early as practicable; the Winnebagoes to join their tribe on the reservation in Nebraska, and the Pottawatomies to unite with their people in the country selected recently by them as their future home in the "Indian country" south of Kansas. For this purpose I respectfully submit the following estimate, and recommend that Congress be asked to make the necessary appropriation.

Transportation and subsistence of 1,000 Winnebago Indians from Wisconsin to Nebraska, \$30 each.....	\$30,000
Transportation and subsistence of 500 Pottawatomies, and 200 Chippewas intermarried with them, from Wisconsin to the Indian country south of Kansas, \$50.....	35,000
Pay of special agent, and for incidental expenses.....	2,000
	67,000

I return herewith the communications of Governor Fairchild and Mr. Young.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. PARKER,  
*Commissioner.*

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

STATE OF WISCONSIN, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
*Madison, January 26, 1870.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith, and to ask your consideration of, the petitions of certain citizens of this State and the State of Minnesota. The Indians are unusually troublesome this winter, and many complaints in regard to them are received at this department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LUCIUS FAIRCHILD.

Hon. J. D. Cox,

*Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.*

Hon. J. D. Cox, *Secretary of Interior, Washington, D. C.:*

The undersigned, your petitioners, would respectfully represent: That there now are, and for several years last past have been, roaming from place to place, through the greater portion of northwestern Wisconsin, stray bands of Pottawatomie and Winnebago Indians, who belong on their respective reservations, but have refused to go there; that said Indians are, and have been, a fruitful source of trouble to the whites, and of serious injury to those regions which they frequent; that they are made the instruments, in the hands of unscrupulous men, of frequent and persistent violations of law, which result in the loss of life and destruction of property, and of the peace and safety of the people, and always to the injury of the Indians themselves; that the best interests of the people of those portions of our State frequented by them, as well as of the Indians, demand that the latter should be removed to their respective reservations, which if done by the government will result in a saving to the government, in money, as the same can be done at a much less cost than is now incurred for expenses of agents, &c., to look after them; and when once so removed, they are already provided for by existing laws. And your petitioners would humbly pray that you use all necessary powers possessed by you, and ask, if necessary, the aid of Congress to enable Ephraim Young, esq., of the United States service, under your direction, to remove them to their said reservations.

FEBRUARY 4, 1870.

WILLIAM S. PRICE,  
*State Senator, 32d District.*  
 CHARLES NEWELL,  
*State Senator, 27th District.*  
 JOHN A. RICE,  
*State Senator, 10th District.*  
 GEORGE REED,  
*State Senator, 19th District.*  
 GEORGE BALDWIN,  
*State Senator, 22d District.*  
 L. WALKER,  
*State Senator, 2d District.*  
 L. MORGAN,  
*State Senator, 3d District.*  
 E. H. IVES,  
*State Senator, 28th District.*  
 J. W. FISHER,  
*State Senator, 21st District.*  
 SAT. CLARK,  
*State Senator, 33d District.*  
 H. H. GAGE,  
*State Senator, 13th District.*  
 H. L. TRIM,  
*State Senator, 20th District.*  
 R. E. DAVIS,  
*State Senator, 26th District.*  
 WILLIAM GRISWOLD,  
*State Senator, 25th District.*  
 JOHN C. HALE,  
*State Senator, 24th District.*  
 NELSON WILLIAMS,  
*State Senator, 11th District.*

C. R. GLEASON,  
*Assembly, 3d District, Fond du Lac.*  
 MICHEL FITZGERALD,  
*Assembly, 2d District, Manitowoc.*  
 CARL H. SCHMIDT,  
*Assembly, 3d District, Manitowoc.*  
 JAMES McGRATH,  
*Assembly, 3d District, Manitowoc.*  
 JAMES E. KENNEDY,  
*Assembly, 1st Dist., Winnebago Co.*  
 C. H. PHILLIPS,  
*Assembly, 1st Dist., Winnebago Co.*  
 HENRY HALL,  
*Assembly, 1st Dist., Winnebago Co.*  
 J. L. HOLLOET,  
*Assembly, 1st Dist., Winnebago Co.*  
 WILLIAM BURYET,  
*Assembly, 1st Dist., Winnebago Co.*  
 IRA A. RICE,  
*Assembly, 1st Dist., Winnebago Co.*  
 ALX. BAILEY,  
*Assembly, 1st Dist., Winnebago Co.*  
 W. H. CHANDLER,  
*Assembly, 1st Dist., Winnebago Co.*  
 C. E. LOVELAND,  
*Assembly, 1st Dist., Winnebago Co.*  
 P. G. MOULTON,  
*Assembly, 2d Dist., La Crosse Co.*  
 JOHN FELLERZ,  
*Assembly, 2d Dist., La Crosse Co.*  
 GEORGE ABERT,  
*Assembly, 2d Dist., La Crosse Co.*

CHAS. G. WILLIAMS,  
*State Senator, 17th District.*  
 GEORGE KROMSOP,  
*State Senator, 30th District.*  
 L. W. IVINEREMY,  
*State Senator, 15th District.*  
 HENRY TOTTEN,  
*Assembly, 1st Dist., Waukesha.*  
 J. D. McDONALD,  
*Assembly, 2d District, Waukesha.*  
 THOMAS McCARTY,  
*Assembly, 3d District, Waukesha.*  
 D. W. MAXON,  
*Assembly, 3d District, Waukesha.*  
 JOHN BOYD,  
*Assembly, 3d District, Fond du Lac.*  
 J. ROBINSON,  
*Assembly, 3d District, Fond du Lac.*  
 H. V. R. WILNET,  
*Assembly, 3d District, Fond du Lac.*

E. HICKS,  
*Assembly, 2d Dist., La Crosse Co.*  
 J. HENRY McNEEL,  
*Assembly, 2d District, Sheboygan.*  
 N. ZAMMERMAN,  
*Assembly, 2d District, Ozaukee Co.*  
 HENRY BERTRAM,  
*Assembly, 4th District, Dodge Co.*  
 D. H. RICHARDS,  
*Assembly, 6th District, Milwaukee.*  
 ENOCH CHASE,  
*Assembly, 9th District, Milwaukee.*  
 W. M. NEWCOMB,  
*Assistant Clerk, Assembly.*  
 E. W. YOUNG,  
*Chief Clerk, Assembly.*  
 S. A. PEASE.  
 J. MACKEY,  
*Sauk County.*  
 J. M. RUSK,  
*Vernon County.*

I hope this subject will receive the attention of the Interior Department.

LUCIUS FAIRCHILD.

I concur in the above request of Gov. Fairchild.

J. V. HOWE.  
 H. E. PAINE.

I also concur in the above request.

DAVID ATWOOD.

To his Excellency Governor LUCIUS FAIRCHILD:

The undersigned, residents of Trempealeau and La Crosse Counties, State of Wisconsin, being annoyed by the vagrant and intemperate habits of the Winnebago Indians, and believing that it would be for the good of the Indians as well as for the whites, that they be sent to the reservations already provided for them by the federal government, most respectfully ask that you will use your personal and executive influence to cause their removal from our State. Hoping that you may look with favor upon our petition, we will ever, &c.

A. W. Newman.  
 S. W. Button.  
 A. F. Booth.  
 F. H. Kirbs.  
 James E. Robinson, Attorney at law, Zempeler.  
 F. A. Utter,  
 G. N. Hancock.  
 J. Hanson.  
 F. E. Booth.  
 John H. Croser.  
 R. R. Jones.  
 James Tull.  
 Robert Davis.  
 E. J. Hanky.  
 E. S. Merriman.  
 E. P. Thompson.  
 R. W. Russell.  
 D. C. Hoyt.  
 H. E. Barrington.  
 Isaac Wright.  
 Philander Hall.  
 E. N. Holmes.  
 Lewis Houghton.  
 T. J. Seymour.  
 C. S. Seymour.  
 Thos. Vettum.  
 Z. Blayrsford.  
 Timon Selek.  
 Richard Clark.  
 N. Payne.  
 Jacob Melchior.  
 W. T. Boehee.

S. Becker.  
 Chas. A. Leith, Assistant Assessor, 7th div. 6th dis., Wis.  
 Chas. Nettleton.  
 C. E. Lum.  
 J. P. Smith.  
 L. Hare.  
 W. H. Scott.  
 A. S. Russell.  
 W. Gray.  
 O. E. Batchelder.  
 G. H. Hyatt.  
 Geo. Batchelder, insurance agent.  
 J. W. Marst.  
 Thomas Gillies.  
 Chr. E. Pencerbox.  
 Ophenberspewest.  
 J. W. Hammond.  
 Benj. F. Bryant.  
 Chas. Lafelesh.  
 S. L. Nevin.  
 K. C. Bussell.  
 Levi Withee.  
 John B. Webb.  
 D. A. Hudson.  
 W. H. Stogdill.  
 H. J. Peck.  
 B. W. Reynolds.  
 Alf. E. Horen.  
 Jno. Synels.  
 Rob. N. Burns.

Frank Hatch.  
 J. C. Cooper.  
 B. D. Atwell.  
 H. Angelroth.  
 W. S. Cankcom.  
 A. T. Clinton.  
 H. Cramer.  
 H. C. Heath.  
 G. H. Deen.  
 A. Pffifner.  
 C. K. Martindale.  
 H. G. Miller.  
 E. Chamberlain.  
 Geo. Howard.  
 H. Freise X. Bray.  
 Joseph Richmond.  
 A. Forbes.  
 Moses Anderson.  
 Naumar S. Cantruitz.  
 Gutman Bras.  
 Robert A. Scot.  
 Wm. B. Hanscome.  
 H. Griswold.  
 B. F. Gippell.  
 J. L. Thorne & Co.  
 Wm. W. Jones.  
 T. D. Senis.  
 J. H. McCulloch.  
 Thomas Hogan.  
 H. T. Bunsay.  
 J. G. Robbins.  
 Chas. B. Solbery.  
 S. Smith.

To his Excellency Governor LUCIUS FAIRCHILD :

The undersigned, residents of the county of Winona, State of Minnesota, would respectfully solicit your personal and official influence to secure the removal of the Winnebago Indians from this vicinity.

Our reasons for making this request are, that the Indians referred to are generally encamped within the State of Wisconsin, and are in the habit of coming over into this State only to trade or commit petty depredations. Moreover, it is quite manifest that unprincipled whites are continually violating the law in selling them spirituous liquors. In view of these facts, we cannot doubt that the interest and welfare alike of the whites and the Indians would be materially advanced by their speedy removal to the reservations already provided for them by the general government.

Hoping our petition may have your favorable approval, your petitioners will ever, &c.

Maverick & Bro.	J. S. Brink.	J. H. Andrews
Beherffins & Bro.	S. N. Wickersham.	S. W. Morgan.
Paul Heyse.	B. T. Wickersham.	H. Carson.
H. B. Jackson, jr.	W. Arnold.	Gustave Auger.
M. J. Rodolphe.	A. J. Allbunf.	S. H. Uliam.
J. M. Roberts.	George E. Hassien.	G. L. Hollowell.
C. H. Waterman.	Stephen Mead.	R. C. Norton.
C. H. Kerry.	W. Newman.	Wm. Jay Whipple.
Jarol Story.	D. Sinclair.	John E. Gill.
Edw. F. Miles.	W. G. Dye.	James Helmer.
Jno. G. Speckman.	Jno. M. Gernz.	C. M. Burch.
Gustav Rohland.	C. Villanmie.	E. O. Wallis.
M. Daniels.	Martin Stadelman.	Thomas Simpson.
J. B. Miller.	J. L. Wilson.	George P. Wilson.
Jacob C. Beach.	H. R. Wedel.	H. W. Lambertson.
A. T. Rogers.	C. H. J. Herman.	E. S. Smith.
Wm. P. Rogers.	Parker Boynton.	Eber Norton.
Diah Rogers.	Sam'l Hurlbut.	George Kimble.
Sam. Britton.	Jayson Nevil.	R. F. Norton.
A. T. Castle.	R. D. Cone.	Sylvester Gardner.
Henry E. Higgs.	E. A. Gordtyon.	A. J. McGilroy.
J. C. Cummings.	H. C. Staire.	L. W. Judge.
John M. Murssel.	J. Laisey.	Wm. Sampson.
D. A. Briggs.	A. W. Webster.	J. N. Irwin.
G. M. A. Munty.	N. C. Gault.	A. A. Lamson.
Joseph Campher.	J. H. Lombard.	C. N. Wakefield.
Cummings or Vitu.	Gregory & Co.	N. T. Hilbert.
F. T. St. John.	L. C. Porter.	Abner Leenes.
O. J. Cummings.	W. W. Kelley.	William Lamb.
Benson & Rett.	L. Richardson.	L. H. Bunnell.
J. Kimball.	W. L. Burr.	A. A. Lampson.

H. Ex. Doc. 216—2