

CHOCTAW INTEREST CLAIM.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

COMMUNICATING

Copies of letters having reference to an item in the estimates for the Choctaw claim for interest.

JANE 21, 1856. -- Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, May 21, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, accompanied by copy of one from P. P. Pitchlynn, Choctaw delegate, having relation to an item in the estimates submitted to the President, on the 16th instant, to be laid before Congress, connected with a claim of the Choctaws for interest under the treaty of 1855, on \$500,000.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary.

Hon. L. D. CAMPBELL,
Chairman Com. of Ways and Means, Ho. of Reps.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, May 20, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose two copies of a letter received today from P. P. Pitchlynn, Choctaw delegate, in regard to the claim in behalf of the Choctaws for interest, under the treaty 1855, on \$500,000, from the date of the convention, rather than from the date of the ratification thereof; and would suggest respectfully that they be laid before the proper committees of the houses of Congress, as

connected with an item in the estimates submitted to you, from this office, on the 13th instant.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner.

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary of the Interior.

CITY OF WASHINGTON, D. C.,
May 16, 1856.

SIR: My colleague, Mr. Folsom, having been compelled to leave this city for home, it devolves upon me, in behalf of him and myself, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to us of the 13th instant.

Sincerely entertaining the conviction in common with our people, that by a just and fair construction of the treaty of the 22d June last, the interest on the trust fund of \$500,000 provided for by the 13th article should, as contended for in our letter of the 12th instant, commence from the date of the treaty, we regret that your decision on that point is adverse, and, with all respect, we beg leave to say that your letter has failed to satisfy us that our view of the case is not borne out and sustained by the treaty. If the 21st article of the treaty, providing that instrument should take effect and be obligatory on the contracting parties from its date, does not apply to the trust referred to, and make it "relate" back and take effect from that date, it is difficult, in our opinion, to conceive what other article or provision of the treaty it can properly be made to effect in that manner.

With respectful consideration, your most obedient servant,

P. P. PITCHLYNN,
Choctaw Delegate.

Hon. G. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.