

BOUNDARY OF CHOCTAW AND CHICKASAW COUNTRY.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, relative to the survey of the eastern boundary of the Choctaw and Chickasaw country.

APRIL 21, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., April 21, 1868.

SIR: Referring to the communication from this department to Congress of the 29th January last, relative to the survey of the eastern boundary of the Choctaw and Chickasaw country, I now have the honor to invite the attention of Congress to the enclosed copy of a report from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 18th instant, transmitting the accompanying copy of letter relating to the same subject.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., April 18, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter from Holmes Colbert, commissioner for the Chickasaw nation of Indians, dated the 26th ultimo, relative to the survey of the boundary line between the State of Arkansas and the Choctaw and Chickasaw country. Mr. Colbert calls attention to the concluding paragraph of the first article of the Choctaw and Chickasaw treaty of June 22, 1855, (Statutes at Large, vol. 11, page 611,) which provides "that each and every member of either tribe (Choctaw or Chickasaw) shall have an equal undivided interest in the whole; (the country described in the preceding paragraph:) *Provided, however,* No part thereof shall ever be sold without the consent of both tribes," &c.

Your attention is respectfully called to reports to you upon this subject, dated, respectively, June 29, 1867, and January 27, 1868, and I would recommend that Congress be requested to regard the rights of the Chickasaws as well as those of the Choctaws, in any action that may be taken by that body.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner.

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.

WASHINGTON, *March* 26, 1868.

SIR: Having noticed in the reports of congressional proceedings that the agents of the Choctaw nation, now in this city, have presented a petition praying that the true line between the State of Arkansas and the Choctaw and Chickasaw country, as described in article first of the treaty between the United States and the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes of Indians, concluded 22d June, 1855, may be run with a view (as I have been informed) to some arrangement whereby the triangular tract of land included between the Arkansas State line, as heretofore run and marked, and the true line, as described in said article of said treaty, may be relinquished to the United States, and the present western line of the State of Arkansas be acknowledged and permanently established, I have, respectfully, to call your attention to the concluding paragraph of said article, in which it is declared that each and every member of either tribe (Choctaw or Chickasaw) shall have an equal, undivided interest in the whole, (the country described in the preceding paragraph :) provided, however, no part thereof shall ever be sold without the consent of both tribes, &c. I am informed that a committee of conference between the Choctaw council and the legislature of the Chickasaw nation was appointed at their regular session in October last, A. D. 1867, for the purpose of considering matters in which the two nations had a common interest, and that it was determined by said committee, and so reported to their respective legislative councils, "that a joint commission," on the part of the two nations, was proper and would be necessary to settle the disputed eastern boundary question with the United States, and that said report was adopted by the Choctaw council and the legislature of the Chickasaw nation respectively. I also desire to notify the government of the United States, through you, that commissioners on the part of the Chickasaw nation have been duly appointed to act in conjunction with such commissioners as may be appointed on the part of the Choctaw nation, to arrange and settle with the United States all matters of difference arising out of the incorrect survey and marking of the eastern boundary line of the Choctaw and Chickasaw country, and request to be informed what steps, if any, have been taken by the United States, or are in contemplation in that connection.

An early response to the foregoing, for the information of the governor of the Chickasaw nation, will greatly oblige

Your obedient servant,

HOLMES COLBERT,
Chickasaw Commissioner.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.