

CLAIMS FOR INDIAN DEPREDACTIONS.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW MEXICO,

RELATIVE TO

*Claims for Indian Depredations.*

FEBRUARY 14, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled :*

Your memorialists, the council and house of representatives of the legislative assembly of the Territory of New Mexico, respectfully represent, and call attention to the fact, that by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, between the United States and Mexico, the people of this Territory were guaranteed protection in their lives and property; that since the annexation of New Mexico to the United States, Indians of the several tribes within her limits have committed many depredations upon the property of the citizens of this Territory, and have carried away personal property to a large amount; that the people, confiding in the justice and good faith of their Government, and believing that re-imbursement was guaranteed and would be made to them, have not sought satisfaction or revenge against the Indians, nor attempted to make good their losses by reprisals, as they might have done in many cases, nor have they ever, by any act, embarrassed the Government or its officers in any manner in carrying out the policy and management adopted by the Government toward the Indians, but, acting upon the advice and by the direction of the officers of the Government, citizens whose property has been taken by Indians have filed in the proper Department at Washington proof of their losses and of the value of their property taken, according to the rules adopted by the Department, and have patiently awaited the action of the Government thereon.

Your memorialists are informed that many claims of this class have passed the scrutiny of officers of the Interior Department and been approved, and now only await the necessary appropriation by Congress for the payment of the sums found due.

Your memorialists further represent that many citizens of the Territory have been actually impoverished by Indian depredations, and all that is left them is their claim against the Government for re-imbursement for their losses; that in some cases the owners of property taken by Indians have found the same in possession of Indians upon reserva-

tions occupied by them established by the United States; but relying as aforesaid upon the good faith of the Government and the assurance of its officers, have refrained in every instance from resorting to violence to recover their property. Your memorialists therefore pray that the necessary appropriation be made by Congress for the payment of these claims, or such of them as may be proven and established to the satisfaction of the proper Department or officer.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

*Resolved by the council and house of representatives of the legislative assembly of the Territory of New Mexico,* That the honorable secretary of the Territory be requested to forward copies of the foregoing memorial to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, to the chairman of the Committee on Territories, and the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to our Delegate in Congress.

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SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
*Territory of New Mexico.*

I, W. G. Ritch, secretary of the Territory of New Mexico, do hereby certify that I have compared the within and foregoing copy of a memorial to Congress with the enrolled original on file in my office, and that the same is a true and correct transcript thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal this 3d day of February, A. D. 1876.

[SEAL.]

W. G. RITCH,  
*Secretary.*