

CHEROKEE INDIANS.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*An act of the Cherokee legislature authorizing a loan to be negotiated for their benefit (subsistence) from the United States.*

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JANUARY 13, 1875.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., January 5, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter, dated 30th ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with inclosures therein noted; communication from Messrs. Ross, Adair, and Scales, Cherokee delegates, and copy of an act passed by the Cherokee legislature authorizing said delegation "to negotiate with the proper authorities of the United States" for a loan of \$500,000 to purchase subsistence for suffering Cherokees, said amount to be refunded out of the proceeds of the Cherokee lands west of the Arkansas River and south of Kansas.

The subject is presented for the consideration of Congress without recommendation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,  
*Secretary.*

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., December 30, 1874.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a communication from the Cherokee delegation, dated the 24th instant, inclosing a copy of an act of the Cherokee legislature, authorizing said delegation to negotiate with the Government for a loan of \$500,000, to be refunded out of the

proceeds of the Cherokee lands west of the Arkansas River and south of Kansas.

It is represented in said communication and act that this loan is rendered necessary to keep the Cherokee people from suffering during the present winter, in consequence of the destruction of their crops by the chinch-bugs and grasshoppers, and an appropriation of the amount referred to is requested by the delegation.

I respectfully recommend the subject to the consideration of the Department and Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW. P. SMITH,  
*Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

EBBITT HOUSE,  
*Washington, D. C., December 24, 1874.*

SIR: In consequence of the drought and intense heat of the last summer, and the visitation of the grasshoppers and chinch-bug, the corn and vegetable crops of the people of the Cherokee Nation were wholly destroyed in many places, and greatly injured in others. Many persons whose prospects in the spring and early summer were most flattering, gathered nothing; others gathered but little. Those who had sown wheat were more fortunate, the yield of this grain being generally good. The yield of this staple was, however, inadequate to the demand, and is in the hands of comparatively a small number of persons who have enough, and perhaps some to spare, while the masses of our people have none.

From petitions received by the principal chief from various sections of the nation, praying for relief, our national council, which adjourned a few days since, was convinced that unless public relief could be afforded at an early day, there was danger not only of great suffering among the people, but also danger of death by starvation. In accordance, therefore, with the earnest recommendations of the principal chief, and the dictates of humanity, the national council adopted an act for public relief, a copy of which we have the honor to transmit herewith for your information. You will perceive from the several provisions of this act the alarming condition in which very many of our people are placed, the necessity of something being done at the very earliest period possible, and the disposition of the Cherokee Nation to bear alone this burden for her suffering people.

As you will see from the accompanying act, we are authorized to apply to the Government of the United States for a loan of half a million dollars, to be secured and refunded out of the proceeds of Cherokee lands lying west of the Arkansas River and south of Kansas.

We would most earnestly solicit your aid in this matter. A recommendation from you to Congress would no doubt secure and expedite favorable action in our behalf, and we respectfully ask that you make such recommendation at your earliest convenience.

We are, very respectfully, your obedient servants,

D. H. ROSS,  
W. P. ADAIR,  
J. A. SCALES,  
*Cherokee Delegation.*

Hon. E. P. SMITH,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs.*

AN ACT providing for breadstuffs for the Cherokee people.

Whereas it appears, from numerous petitions signed by many citizens from various parts of this nation, that because of the protracted drought that prevailed throughout this country during the past spring and summer, that there is and will be great scarcity of breadstuffs among the people, and that as a consequence thereof there will be much suffering among the people if left alone to their own limited resources until the crops of the next summer shall have matured; and,

Whereas the people have petitioned for aid in obtaining breadstuffs sufficient to relieve them until their crops of the next season shall have matured: Therefore,

*Be it enacted by the national council,* That the Cherokee delegation, about to proceed to

the seat of Government of the United States at Washington, be, and they are hereby, instructed and directed to negotiate with the proper authorities of the United States, on the most reasonable terms, a loan of five hundred thousand dollars, (\$500,000,) to be refunded out of the proceeds of the Cherokee lands lying west of the Arkansas River and south of Kansas, and, when realized, the said funds shall be, and they are hereby, appropriated to be paid to the whole Cherokee people *per capita*, in the manner hereinafter prescribed, to enable them to purchase breadstuffs.

*Be it further enacted*, That for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, that the principal chief, by and with the advice of the executive council, be, and he is hereby, authorized, at his earliest convenience, in the manner most feasible and economical, to have correct census-rolls taken of the whole Cherokee people within the limits of the Cherokee Nation, and to turn over the same, when completed, certified to by him, to the treasurer of the Cherokee Nation, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the said treasurer to file the said roll in his office, and, as soon thereafter as he may be advised by any proper authority that the said funds have been realized by the Cherokee authorities, he shall make requisitions for the same upon the proper authority of the United States; and, on receiving said funds, it shall be the duty of said treasurer to pay the same out *per capita* to the whole Cherokee people according to the said census rolls. In making said payments the treasurer is hereby directed to pay the funds in person to all adult persons entitled to the same, and to parents, guardians, and heads of families representing minors and disabled persons, and no other person or persons whomsoever. A receipt-roll shall be kept by the treasurer, showing the payments made, and to whom, and which shall be reported to the national council next following said payments.

*Be it further enacted*, That the principal chief be, and he is hereby, authorized to draw warrants payable out of any funds belonging to the general funds, and not otherwise appropriated, to pay the expenses of taking the census-rolls herein provided for.

November 19, 1874. Approved.

WILL. P. ROSS,  
*Principal Chief.*

I hereby certify the above is a true copy of the original now on file in the executive department.

JNO. F. LYONS,  
*Executive Secretary.*