

SALE OF A PART OF OMAHA INDIAN RESERVATION IN
NEBRASKA.

JULY 1, 1882.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of
the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HASKELL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the
following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1255.]

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1255)
to provide for the sale of a part of the reservation of the Omaha tribe of
Indians, in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes, have had the
same under careful consideration, and beg leave to submit the accompa-
nying substitute therefor, and report thereon :*

By the terms of this bill, which is offered as a substitute for Senate
bill No. 1255, it is provided that, with the consent of the Omaha tribe
of Indians, all that part of the Omaha Indian Reservation in the State
of Nebraska, lying west of the line of the Sioux City and Nebraska Rail-
way, may be surveyed, appraised, and sold to actual *bona fide* settlers,
who may hereafter, under the provisions of this bill, settle upon said
lands, the proceeds of such sale being for the use and benefit of said
Omaha tribe of Indians, leaving for the use and occupancy of the Omaha
Indians about 140,000 acres of land. There will be sold under the terms
of this bill about 45,000 acres of land, to be appraised at not less than
\$2.50 per acre.

The bill also provides for the allotment in severalty to each member
of the tribe of a sufficient quantity of land to give each family all that
they can cultivate profitably, and secures to the tribe, by patent in
common, all the land not thus allotted to individuals of the tribe, the
sale of which is not provided for in this bill.

Your committee believe that they have incorporated in the bill all the
suggestions that have been made by the Commissioners of the General
Land-Office and of Indian Affairs, and that the interests of the Indians
have been carefully guarded in strict accordance with their wishes and
their treaties with the United States. There is hereto appended as part
of this report an extract from the letter of the Commissioner of Indian
Affairs to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, of date March 20,
1882, and also Senate Mis. Doc. No. 31, being a memorial from the
Omaha Indians concerning the subject matter of this bill.

Your committee are of the opinion that great good will result to the
Indians in the securing of title to their lands, as provided for in this
substitute, and that the Senate bill as thus amended should pass.

* * * * *
“By the treaty with the Omahas of 1855 (14 Stats., 667), provision is made for the
issuance of certificates to members of the tribe; but it may be questionable, and it is

questioned, whether such certificates have the force and effect of a patent, and convey the fee of the land. The question may be a more practical one when the time shall arrive at which those holding lands under such certificates shall be entitled to and wish to sell their lands"; and this office presumes that the suggestion of the Secretary that "the bill should also provide that for all allotments of lands already made to individual Indians, and for all that may be made, *patents* should issue the same as to white persons," &c., was intended to apply especially to the lands embraced within that part of the reservation to which the proposition to sell does not extend, and where *only* allotments for which said certificates were issued have been selected.

* * * * *

I would recommend a provision for the issuance of *patents* in lieu of the *certificates* provided for in the fourth article of the treaty of March 6, 1865 (11 Stats., 668), which shall expressly state that the lands covered by such patents shall not be subject to alienation, lease, or incumbrance, either by voluntary conveyance of the grantee or by the judgment, order, or decree of any court, or subject to taxation of any character, but shall and remain inalienable and not subject to taxation for the period of twenty-five years, and until such time thereafter as the President of the United States may see fit to remove the restriction.

In reply to the inquiry of the committee as to whether, if so much of the reservation is sold as provided, the remainder will be adequate for the present and prospective wants of the Indians located thereon, I will state that there will be remaining an area of 143,225 acres, more than will be required for present or future wants.

The population of the tribe, as per last report of the agent, is 1,121. By the treaty of March 6, 1865 (14 Stat., 667), it is provided that there shall be assigned to each head of a family not to exceed 160 acres, and to each male person eighteen years of age and upwards, without family, not exceeding 40 acres, and that 640 acres shall be set apart for agency purposes.

Under the foregoing provisions 316 allotments were made (in 1870) requiring 45,182.47 acres. Subsequently 19 of these allotments were canceled as falling within lands sold to the Winnebagoes under act of 1874 (15 Stats., p. 170), leaving an area of allotted lands 42,698.42 acres. There then remained of unallotted lands (outside of the lands of which the provisions of the present bill authorizing the sale of not exceeding 50,000 acres extend) an area of 100,526.66 acres.

Most of the Indians entitled have had their lands assigned to them, and it is clear, therefore, that the lands covered by the proposition to sell can be spared without endangering the future well-being of the Indians. * * *

MEMORIAL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE OMAHA TRIBE OF INDIANS, FOR A GRANT OF LAND IN SEVERALTY.

To the Senate of the United States:

We, the undersigned, members of the Omaha tribe of Indians, have taken out certificates of allotment of land, or entered upon claims within the limits of the Omaha reserve. We have worked upon our respective lands from three to ten years; each farm has from five to fifty acres under cultivation; many of us have built houses on these lands, and all have endeavored to make permanent homes for ourselves and our children.

We therefore petition your honorable body to grant to each one a clear and full title to the land on which he has worked.

We earnestly pray that this petition may receive your favorable consideration, for we now labor with discouragement of heart, knowing that our farms are not our own, and that any day we may be forced to leave the lands on which we have worked. We desire to live and work on these farms where we have made homes, that our children may advance in the life we have adopted. To this end, and that we may go forward with hope and confidence in a better future for our tribe, we ask of you titles to our lands.

Respectfully submitted:

1. Kah-a-nun-ba (Two Crows) x Lewis Morris, 18 acres.
2. Do-uba-moni x Harrison McCauley, 16 acres.
3. Segro-nunga x George Gran (police), 21 acres.
4. Ta-oh-ka-hah x Arthur Ramsey (police), 32 acres.
5. Wajepa x Ezra Fremont, 55 acres.
6. x Joseph Merrick, 16 acres.
7. Pawnee-mumph-zhe x Jordan Stabler (police), 18 acres.
8. Pah-bee-souta x Johnathan Rush, 15 acres.
9. Ma-etbing-ge x No Knife, 18 acres.

10. Wah-na-zha-hinga x Little Soldier, 15 acres.
11. Waa-zhe-umta x Alvin Cox, 16 acres.
12. Me-hah-ta x Henry Morris, 29 acres.
13. Ma-he-wa-the x Richard Robinson (police), 18 acres.
14. Wa-loo-te ta x Samuel Irving, 8 acres.
15. Mumta Do-uta x Levi John Webster, 16½ acres.
16. Wa-ho-sha-go x James Springer, 12 acres.
17. Um-pa-tim-ga x Big Elk, 14 acres.
18. Ma-wah-dah-ne x Henry Cline, 28 acres.
19. Frederick Merrick, 13½ acres.
20. x Matthew Tyndal (captain police), 27 acres.
21. Tah-ha-zhinga x Badger, 15 acres.
22. Noah Samis, 15 acres.
23. Joseph Lepuoburch (La flesche), 40 acres.
24. x Edward Esau (police), 22 acres.
25. Na-zair-duzze x Dwight, 12 acres.
26. Louis Sannsoci, 45 acres.
27. Ma-ste-an-zee, x 16 acres.
28. x Phillip Sheridan, 12 acres.
29. x Blackbird Sheriden, 15 acres.
30. William Provost, 30 acres.
31. He-ba-zhor x Oliver Mitchell, 14 acres.
32. Wah-sin-sin-de, x Samson Gilpin, 10 acres.
33. Num-ba-moni, x Charles Webster, 9 acres.
34. Shu-shing-ga, x, 20 acres.
35. x John Pilcher, 30 acres.
36. Fred. Cayon, 15 acres.
37. Sin-de-hah-bah x, 45 acres.
38. J. M. Spuyer (John Springer), 22 acres.
39. Hun-gah-te x (Big Omaha), 14 acres.
40. William Tyndall (2d sergeant police), 20 acres.
41. Tah-waugh-gar-a-ghinga x Cyrus Blackbird, 25 acres.
42. Uriah Merrick.
43. Ma-ga-tah x Joseph Cox, 10 acres.
44. Wah-ga-a-sha x Luke Cox.
45. Ega-hun-ga-sha x David Wells, 10 acres.
46. Gah-e-va-zhe x Walter Morris, 10 acres.
47. Ta-hoo-tom-bee x Oharles Robinson, 15 acres.
48. Thomas McCauley, 30 acres.
49. En-la-bee x George Miller, 20 acres.
50. David Stbler (Stabler).
51. Nebraska x, 25 acres.
52. 7½ acres.
53. 20 acres.

1. *Kah-a-num-ba (Two Crows) Lewis Morris*.—Full blood. Has claim No. 315. Broke 7 acres, eight years ago. Has 18 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat, corn, potatoes, vegetables, garden fruit. Planted apple-trees and timber. Built frame-house six years ago, paid money and ponies for it. Has bought some farming implements, and received from government. Has ponies, cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys. Supports six persons. Sixty years old. A chief. He was one of seven Indians who twenty-five years ago clubbed together, each one contributing \$2, and bought a plow, the first one they had ever used. He has suffered much from the loss of cows and horses stolen by the Winnebagoes—2 cows, 16 horses; this has hampered his farming. His remarks in full in Appendix.

2. *Dou-ba-moni, Harrison McCauley*.—Full blood. Has claim No. 232. Broke 4 acres five years ago. Has 16 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat, corn, potatoes, vegetables, garden fruit. Planted apple and cherry trees, and timber. Built dugout four years ago. Has bought farming implements, and received from government. Has ponies, cows, pigs, chickens. Supports 4 persons. About 45 years old. A chief. Worked on the bottom-lands ten years ago. Remarks in full in Appendix.

3. *Segro-numga, George Grant*.—Full blood. Has claim No. 317. Broke 9 acres 5 years ago. Has 21 acres under cultivation, not including hay fields. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, garden fruit. Planted apple trees and timber. Built mud lodge, cattle sheds, corn cribs, &c. Has bought farming implements, and received from government. Has ponies, cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys. Supports 5 persons. About 47 years old. Is now in the United States Indian-police service. He was one of the seven who, twenty-five years ago, contributed to the purchase of the plow. He says:

"Although I have no children, I have worked hard on my land so that I should not go round begging. I thought the land was my own, so I went to work and cultivated it. Now I have found out it is not my own, and this makes me stop. I am afraid if I should build a house and spend money on it, I would lose it, if the government should move the Indians from this land. Three times I have cut wood to build a house. Each time the agent told me the government wished to build me a house. Every time my wood has lain and rotted, and now I feel ashamed when I hear an agent telling me such things. * * * God knows I am telling the truth in all this. It may be for something very wrong that the Indians have done that God is punishing us so now. * * * I want a title to my land; I want a house that is my own."

4. *To-oh-ka-hah, Arthur Ramsey.*—Full blood. Has claim No. 220. Broke five acres, six years ago. Has 32 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, melons. Built log house, bought windows and doors. Has bought farming implements and machines, and received from government. Has ponies, cows, pigs, chickens. Supports six persons. About forty-seven years old. Is now in United States Indian-police service. Has suffered from having horses stolen by Winnebagoes. He says:

"I belong to the citizen's party. I was one of its originators. We want to become citizens. We wish to have laws like the white men, to have courts to appeal to, and to have good titles to our lands. * * * I have always wished this from the first time I thought over it. * * * It seems to me as though the Indians had not strength; they have no horses, only ponies; it is all they can do to move on a little. * * * It is as if the Indians were left out in the winter. This year we have made nothing, our crops were so poor, but it is God's will."

5. *Wa-jepa, Ezra Freemont.*—Full blood. Has claim No. 235. Broke 10 acres five years ago. Has 55 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, garden fruits. Planted apple and cherry trees and timber. Built frame house, painted and papered; paid for it in ponies and money; built outbuildings, &c. Has bought farming implements. Was one of three Indians to purchase a reaper. Contributed \$50. Received from government. Has ponies, cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, ducks. Supports nine persons. About forty years old. He says:

"Before I began to farm I was just a wild Indian, doing as I pleased, going round the country looking for death. * * * We have no government on the reserve. We have trouble all the time, which we would not have if we had government and law. We want these. We are right among the white people, and as we have no law, we can't get along very well. There are persons living on the reserve who have certificates of allotment; they believe that the land is theirs, and that they can always keep it. I know differently. I know that the certificates are not good. I want a title to my land, then the land will be mine. If the government does not give to us titles, I do not know what we are going to do. I went on my farm with my certificate. I believed the land was mine. I have found out the land is not mine, that the government can take it away. We are going to ask for our titles. As long as the government does not give them, we will ask until the government gets tired. We won't stop asking till we get our titles."

6. *Joseph Merrick.*—Full blood. Has claim No. 327. Broke 7 acres five years ago. Has 16 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, garden fruit. Planted apple trees. Built frame house five years ago. Outbuildings. Bought tools. Received implements from government. Has ponies, cows, pigs, chickens, ducks. Supports nine persons. About thirty-three years old. Works upon his father's claim, who is old, and lives with him. He says:

"I went on my farm with my certificate. I soon lost faith in it, for the people told me it was good for nothing. One reason I have not broken more land is because I am always in fear that the land may be taken away from me. * * * I hope God will help us to get titles. * * * I bought something and paid for it, but the man did not give me what I bought and paid for. I wish that we had law, for then this man could have been made to give me what I had paid for. I want law here, that justice may be done for all. I belong to the party that wishes to become like white people, and to be citizens."

7. *Pawnee-numph-zhe, Jordan Stalle.*—Full blood. Has claim No. 272. Broke eight acres six years ago. Has 18 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, melons. Planted apple trees. Built frame house five years ago, paid for it by ponies and cash. Has bought farming implements, and received from government. Has horses, cows, pigs, and chickens. Supports ten persons. About fifty years old. Is now in the United States Indian-police service. He also works on claim No. 229, which belongs to his cousin, Nooga-Suda, Phillip Stalle, who is blind, making in all some 26 acres which Pawnee-numph-zhe cultivates. He says:

"I am one of the men who wish to have titles to their lands. These men want titles because they want what is their own, to be their very own, so that they may be

able to give their land to their children. When I get my title it will be the best thing I can have; this I know. I hope all those who sign this petition will get titles to their lands."

8. *Pah-see-do-uba, Jonathan Rush.* Full blood. Has claim No. 233. Broke 5 acres five years ago. Has 15 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted peach-stones, trees came up well, also timber. Built sheds. Lives in a tent. Has bought implements, and received from government. Has ponies. Supports three persons. About sixty years old. Has suffered heavy losses from fire, and can't afford a house. He says:

"I want a title to my land. I am an old man; when I die I want to leave my farm to my child. I belong to the party in favor of advancement."

9. *Ma-e-thing-ge, No Knife.*—Full blood. Works on a claim. Has 18 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat, corn, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple trees, timber. Built mud lodge, sheds, &c. Bought implements, and received from government. Has ponies, cows, chickens. Supports five persons. About sixty-five years old. His certificate of allotment of land was taken from him when the Omahas transferred lands to the Winnebagoes. He was one of the seven who, twenty-five years ago contributed to the purchase of the plow. He has suffered many discouragements.

10. *Wah-na-zh-zhinga, Little Soldier.*—Full blood. Works on a claim. Broke 10 acres five years ago. Has 15 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple trees. Built house, part log, part dugout, sheds, &c. Bought implements, and received from government. Has one pony, chickens. Supports two persons. Sixty-seven years old. His certificate of allotment taken at time of transfer of lands to Winnebagoes. He has labored against great odds. He says:

"The man who surveyed the lands and the man who gave me the 'certificate' told me that no one could take the land from me, but it was taken, and they seemed to make very easy work of it when they wanted to take it. I felt very bad when they took the paper. I have not heard a word about taking the land; it was all the work of the chiefs. I thought the 'certificate' was a title. I wish I could have the land back that was taken. Money is good, but I think more of the land. I want a title to my farm. I want this land to be my own. * * * You see me now; I am growing old and getting so that I can't do much, but I keep on working and mean to work. * * * I have had a great deal of trouble. I could stand here and tell you of it all day, but I will not say any more about it."

11. *Wah-zhe-umba, Alvin Cox.*—Full-blood. Has claim No. 318. Broke 8 acres five years ago. Has 16 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple trees. Built mud lodge, cattle-sheds, &c. Has bought implements, and received from government. Has ponies, cows. Supports eight persons. About fifty years old. He says:

"I want a title to my land. I am worried, for I am afraid that the Indians may be moved away."

12. *Ma-hah-ta, Henry Morris.*—Full-blood. Has claim No. 214. Broke 5 acres five years ago. Has 29 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple trees, timber. Built dugout and mud lodge, sheds, &c. Has bought implements, and received from government. Has ponies, cows, pigs, chickens. Supports eight persons. About fifty-five years old. He was one who went to work twenty-two years ago. Has suffered from fire, losing "everything but his blanket." He says:

"I have had hard work to get along, and to obtain for myself the things I have. People will come from the East and tell us to work and work hard, but they never come to our homes and see what we have to work with. * * * Instead of that they speak a little, and go back to the East. * * * I have heard your words that you are coming to see me in my own house; that is something I have never heard before from white people. * * * Although it has been hard for me to do what I have accomplished, I still want to keep on doing. I want a title to my land. I look around and see the white people, and I see that their way of doing is best. Two years ago, I think, two commissioners came from Washington, and they told us to go on and work, that the Indians' arms and hands were as large and strong as the white man's; but it seems to me as though the Indian is yet able to use only his hands."

13. *Ma-he-ua-the, Richard Robinson.*—Full-blood. Has claim No. 257. Broke 5 acres four years ago. Has 18 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, garden fruits. Planted apple and cherry trees, and timber. Built log house, paid for some material and work, sheds, &c. Bought implements and tools, and received from government. Has ponies, cows, pigs, chickens. Supports eight persons. About forty-five years old. He says:

"When I was a young man I wanted to work. When I first tried to plow I used to fall down, for I did not know how to handle the plow. I thought that one day all the Indians must work; that I would try and learn while I was young, it would be

easier for me. When I first saw the white people, I saw that they worked, and all that they had seemed to sparkle. I wondered where this glistening came from. I saw that they worked at the ground, and it was from that that they got the sparkle. * * * I want a title to my land. I hope the white people will help us so that we may have law upon the reserve. * * I hope that in the future some of the children of the Omahas may be among the lawyers of the land. The reason the Omahas are still in existence is, I think, because they have worked, are working, and trying to help themselves."

14. *Wa-loo-teta, Samuel Irving*.—Full-blood. Works on a claim. Broke 8 acres five years ago. Has 8 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Lives in a tent; bought the tent-cover. Bought tools; received implements from government. Has ponies, cow, pigs, chickens. Supports seven persons. About thirty-two years old. He says:

"I have always wished for a title to my land. If the Indians could have title to their lands they would go to work with a will. All the young men who are working for themselves want to have laws like white men, that justice may be done."

15. *Mumba-Douba, Levi John Webster*.—Full-blood. Has claim No. 237. Broke 8 acres four years ago. Has 16½ acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple trees and timber. Built log house two years ago; bought some materials, shed, &c. Bought implements, and received from government. Has ponies, cows, chickens. Supports six persons. About thirty-six years old. He says:

"I want a title to my land; my changing my dressought to show that. I love my land. * * * I want to have law here, that justice may be done on this reserve."

16. *Wa-ho-sha-ga, James Springer*.—Full-blood. Works on a claim. Broke 7 acres six years ago. Has 12 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Built log house five years ago; bought materials, sheds. Bought tools; received implements from the government. Has ponies, chickens. Supports thirteen persons. About thirty-seven years old. His certificate of allotment taken away on the transfer of land to the Winnebagoes. Has had misfortunes; served in the United States Army two years and six months, 1864 to 1866; honorably discharged. He says:

"I want a title to my land, so that no one can take from my children the land on which I have worked."

17. *Umpa-tunga, Big Elk*.—Full blood. Works on a claim. Broke 7 acres six years ago. Has 14 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat, corn, potatoes, vegetables, garden fruits. Planted apple trees and timber. Built frame house, paid in stock and money; outbuildings. Has bought implements, and received from government. Has ponies, chickens. Supports two persons. About forty-five years old. His certificate of allotment taken away on the transfer of land to the Winnebagoes. He is descended from an old line of chiefs. Has had many afflictions and been in delicate health. Remarks in appendix.

18. *Mah-wah-dah-ne, Henry Cline*.—Full blood. Has claim No. 234. Broke 10 acres six years ago. Has 28 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple trees, timber. Built frame house, cost him over \$200; outbuildings. Has bought implements; received from the government. Has American horse, ponies, cows, chickens. Supports five persons. About sixty years old. Has suffered severely from fire. He says:

"I have taken hold of the plow. I did not know how, but I put in my ponies, and my wife held the reins. * * * There is a party among us in favor of titles. When it first started I was one of them. * * * I want a title to my land. I may never know all the good it will bring, but my children will know. * * * If I were a young man, I would say much; but I am too old to speak much. The reason I have worked so hard is that I wished to set an example to others, that they might see how an old man could work, because he wanted to."

19. *Frederick Merrick*.—Full blood. Has claim No. 325. Broke 4½ acres four years ago. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple trees. Has 3½ acres cultivated. About to build a log house. Has corn-crib, &c. Has ponies, cows, chickens. Supports five persons. About twenty-eight years old. He says:

"I want a title to my land. The Indians are not as strong as the white people. They have not the implements nor strong horses to work with as the white people have; but for all that the Indians want to go on and do all they can on their land. * * * If they had some one to teach them they would learn. Then they would get on faster in their work."

20. *Matthew Tyndal*.—Full blood. Has claim No. 255. Broke land seven years ago. Has 27 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, vegetables, garden fruits. Government built house; he hauled timber. Outbuildings. Bought tools. Received implements from government. Has one American horse, pony, cow, and calf. Supports seven persons. About thirty-seven years old. Is captain in United States Indian police service. He has helped his father, worked his

land; given him a wagon and ox-team worth \$200; also assisted his brother-in-law, who is now prospering. Served in the United States Army two years and six months, 1864 to 1866. Honorably discharged. Worked at the mill. Been on police three years. He says:

"It is plain to see that the government owns my land. * * * The Omabas will do better when they have titles to their lands. They will make improvements and plant timber. One reason why they have not made more progress is because they are always worried about this thing [not owning their land]. If they don't get titles to their lands they will not be able to stay here, for the government will take away the land from them. This is why they beg the men in Washington to do all they can to get us titles to our lands."

21. *Tah-ha-zhinga, Badger*.—Full blood. Has claim No. 226. Broke 12 acres six years ago. Has 15 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple and cherry trees. Bought his house; paid by lumber. Sheds. Bought implements. One of the three Indians to contribute \$50 towards the reaper received from government. Has ponies, cows, chickens. Supports six persons. About forty-five years old. Farmed years ago. He says:

"I am one of the men who want a title. It used to be that I never thought of these things, but now I am always thinking of a title to my lands, of law and civilization. * * * I am not a white man, but when I am working I enjoy myself. * * * To go roaming about the country is as hard as working. When one works one gets something for one's trouble, but not when one goes round the country. * * * We will work all the harder when we get titles to our lands."

22. *Noah Samis*.—Full blood. Works on a claim. Broke 5 acres four years ago. Has 15 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat. Planted timber. Has lumber ready to build. Lives with father-in-law. Has bought tools. Received implements from government. Supports three persons. About twenty-five years old. He says:

"I want a title to my land, that I may have a home surely my own."

23. *Joseph Laflesche*.—Half French. Has claim No. 225. Broke this land sixteen years ago. Has 45 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, garden fruits. Planted apple and cherry trees; grape-vines. House built by government; he furnished lumber. Outbuildings. Has bought implements. One of three to contribute \$50 toward the reaper received from government. Has American horses, ponies, cows, pigs, chickens. Supports eight persons. About fifty-seven years old. One of the remarkable men of the tribe. The leader toward citizenship. One of the seven who bought the plow twenty-five years ago. He bought other implements, and oxen, at that time. He started a farm twenty-two years ago, on the bottom-land; had it fenced; formed a village. Each family lived in a house. He, for himself, built a large frame house, finished with plaster, painted, and furnished. Was at one time a trader. Was head chief for some years. Deposed politically. (Remarks in full in appendix.)

24. *Han-de-mony, Edward Esau*.—Full blood. Has claim No. 68. Broke 7 acres six years. Has 22 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple trees. Built dugout three years ago. Outbuildings. Bought implements; received from government. Has ponies, cow, pigs, chickens. Supports six persons. About forty years old. Is in the United States Indian police service. Has suffered from fire and other disasters. He says:

"When I was a boy I saw much game and buffalo, and the animals my forefathers used to live upon, but now all are gone. Where I once saw the animals I now see houses, and white men cultivating the land; and I see that this is better. I ought long ago to have tried to work like the white man; but for several years I have been trying, and perhaps in the future I can do much better for myself and my friends. * * * I want a title for my land. I am troubled about it, for I am not sure I can have the land if I do not get a title. * * * In the morning I get up and look at my fields, and I wish that God may help me to do better with my land and let it be my own."

25. *Na-zin-duzze, Dwight*.—Full-blood. Works on a claim. Broke 12 acres five years ago. Has 12 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Lives in a tent. Bought tools; received implements from government. Has ponies; lost cow last summer. He says:

"I work on a piece of land, and it is as though it did not belong to me. I want a title."

26. *Louis Saunsoci*.—Half French. Has claim No. 254. Has 45 acres under cultivation, not including hay field. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Government built houses; he hauled timber. Had American horses; lost by disease. Cow. Supports — persons. About sixty years old. Has been interpreter to Otoes and Omahas for several years. Has suffered severely from loss of eyesight. Had other disasters. He says:

"I want a title to my farm."

27. *Ma-sta-an-zee*.—Full-blood. Has a claim. Broke 6 acres five years ago. Has

16 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple trees. Built mud lodge three years ago, sheds, &c. Received implements from government. Has ponies, cows, chickens. Supports seven persons. About thirty years old. He says:

"I want title for my land. It will then be well for me."

28. *Phillip Sheriden*.—Full-blood. Has a claim. Has 12 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat. Received implements from the government. Has ponies, cows. Supports six persons. About twenty-four years old. He does all the work on his father-in-law's farm—about 30 acres—and lives with him. He says:

"I have not been able to settle on my claim on account of my father-in-law, but I am going to build a house on it and live there, and I want a title to my land that I may have a permanent home."

29. *Blackbird Sheriden*.—Full blood. Has a claim. Broke it six years ago. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes. Planted fruit trees and timber. Built log house; paid carpenter \$60. Outbuildings. Bought implements, and received from government. Has ponies, cows, pigs, chickens. Supports seven persons. About twenty-six years old. Also works upon his father's land—24 acres. He says:

"I know how good it is to work. I want a title to my farm that it may be secure to me."

30. *William Provost*.—Half French. Has a claim. Broke land three years ago. Has 30 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat, corn, potatoes, vegetables, garden fruits. Planted timber. Built a log and box house; sheds. Bought implements, and received from government. Has American horses, ponies, cows, pigs, chickens. Supports seven persons. About twenty-six years old. He says:

"I want to get a title to my lands."

31. *He-ba-zoo, Oliver Mitchell*.—Full-blood. Has claim No. 253. Father (dead) broke it eleven years ago. Has 14 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat, corn. Planted fruit trees. Lives in a tent. Built sheds. Received implements from government. Has pony, cow, pigs, chickens. Supports four persons. About twenty-three years old. He says:

"I will be very glad to get a title to my farm."

32. *Wah-sin-sin-de, Sampson Gilpin*.—Full-blood. Has claim No. 29. Father (dead) broke it twelve years ago. Has 10 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands; raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple and cherry trees, timber. Built log house five years ago, outbuildings. Bought tools, &c. Received implements from government. Has ponies, cows, pigs, chickens. Supports eight persons. Twenty-three years old; has had responsibility since quite a youth. Has worked. He says:

"Now it is as though we had no homes. Years ago white people told me to go to work and make a home. I have tried, and done the best I could, but I cannot do as the white man does. I am not so strong. If I can get a title to my farm I shall try more and more to do as my white brothers do."

33. *Num-ba-moni, Charles Webster*.—Full blood. Has a claim. Broke 5 acres seven years ago. Has 9 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat, corn, potatoes, vegetables, melons. Planted apple and cherry trees, and timber. Built log house; bought some materials; sheds. Has ponies, cows, chickens. Bought implements; received from government. Supports eight persons. Thirty-five years old. He says:

"I hope we will get titles to the lands on which we have worked, that this may be our home always."

34. *Shu-shurg-ga, Prairie Chicken*.—Full blood. Has a claim. Broke 10 acres nine years ago. Has 20 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat, corn, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple trees, timber, grape-vines. Built frame house and dug-out; paid for it; sheds. Bought implements, and received from government. Has ponies, cows, pigs, chickens, ducks. Supports five persons. About fifty years old; a chief. He says:

"I have worked on my land, and as I look at the hills I think; if any one should come and tell me to go away; I know no place to go to. Here my father lived; here I have worked and tried to make a home. I think I could only stand here on my land till I was pushed off. It makes my heart sad to think this could ever be done. I wish I could have a title to my land. It seems to me that the government cannot refuse to give me a title. If I could get a title to my farm then I would feel happy and could work harder."

35. *John Pilcher*.—Half French. Has claim No. 67. Broke 15 acres three years ago. Has 30 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, garden fruit. Planted apple trees, timber, grape vines. Built log house, frame addition; paid out \$76; worked himself. Has a well cost \$30; sheds; urniture. Bought \$75 worth implements, received from government. Has American

horses, cows, pigs, chickens. Supports ten persons. About fifty years old. He says: "I want a title to my land. I want a home so that when I die my children will have a home. I have worked hard here, and here I want my bones to lie. I have worked hard, and will work hard, but I want to be sure that the land is secure to me; so I want a title to my farm."

36. *Fred Cayon* (married to Omaha woman.)—White. Works on wife's claim. Broke 10 acres ten years ago. Has 15 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat, corn, potatoes, vegetables, makes sorghum. Planted apple and cherry trees. Built log house; sheds. Bought implements, and received from government. Has American horses, cows, pigs, chickens. Supports five persons. Forty-one years old. He says:

"I want to get a title to this land that it may be secured to my children."

37. *Sin-de-hah-hah, Wm. Hamilton*.—Full blood. Has claim No. 222. Broke land six years ago. Has 50 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple trees. Frame house, built by government; he furnished lumber. Bought implements, received from government. Has American horses, cows, pigs, chickens. Supports nine persons. About fifty years old. Was one who farmed twenty-two years ago on the bottom—Latlesche's village. Has built four houses. Is a chief. He says:

"Long ago we never used to think of anything but our old ways of living. I first began to work when the Omahas lived near Bellevien; that was before the land down there was sold. I used to saw and cut wood for the mission. I made use of the money I earned right away. I bought a horse. I saw that the money was in the wood. * * * When we moved out upon our claims I thought I would be the first to break land, and I was. * * * I have seen that it is good to work and I do not think I would stop working. When I am working on my land I am always thinking of my children. I wish I could work without feeling a bit worried. When I hear anything about people wanting to get this land away it just frightens me! I wish it could be so that the land would be always mine. I do not care so much for myself as for my children, for I hope when I die to leave something to them. That is the way the white men do. I think they leave what they have to their children. I want a title to my farm. I think of it every day, and I have come to-day to tell you so."

38. *John Springer*.—Full blood. Has claim No. 326. Broke 10 acres five years ago; has 22 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables; planted apple trees, built log house four years ago, sheds, &c. Bought implements, and received from government. Has American horses, ponies, cows, pigs. Supports six persons; forty-one years old. Has served in the United States Army two years and six months; honorably discharged. He says:

"I want a title to the land on which I have worked that I may have a home."

39. *Hun-ga-te* (Big Omaha).—Full blood. Has a claim. Broke 6 acres five years ago; has 14 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables; lives in a tent. Corn-crib, sheds, &c. Received implements from government. Has ponies, cows, chickens. Supports seven persons; about thirty-four years old. He says:

"I want a title to my land. I have walked many miles to tell you these things, and to put my name to this petition."

40. *William Tyndall*.—Full blood. Works on a claim. Broke 5 acres six years ago; has 20 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, garden fruit; planted apple trees and timber; built log house, bought material, sheds, &c. Bought implements and tools, and received from government. Has ponies, cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, ducks. Supports six persons; about thirty-two years old. Is in the United States Indian-police service, second sergeant. Served in the United States Army two years and six months; honorably discharged. He says:

"I would like the white people in Washington to help us to get our land, so that what land we work we may be sure it is our own. We want titles. We want our children educated. We want order. I think push, as my brother Matthew Tyndall does."

41. *Tah-waugh-gar-a-zhinga, Cyrus Blackbird*.—Full blood. Has claim No. 251. Broke 11½ acres six years ago; has twenty-five acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables; planted apple trees, built frame house, cost him \$300, sheds, &c. Bought implements and received from government. Has American horses, cow, pig, chickens. Supports nine persons; about fifty-five years old. He says:

"I want a title to my land. When I first went on my claim I was one of the first to want a good paper and to recommend trying to get one; it is a good thing to get a title to our lands; then when we die the land will be our children's. I like to work, but when I hear anything about "removal," then it makes me feel as though I could not work. One reason I have worked so hard is, on account of my children. I have

put up a house, and done all that I could, and I want my children to stay here. I want a title that will fix it."

42. *Uriah Merrick*.—Full blood. Lives with his father-in-law, Mah-wah-dah-ne. He starts next spring upon a claim; intends to build a house, and make a home. Before his marriage, worked for mother, and since then for his wife's father. Supports two persons; about nineteen years old. (Although he had not fulfilled the engagements of the petition, it did not seem best to refuse his name.)

43. *Ma-ga-tah, Joseph Cox*.—Full blood. Has a claim. Broke 10 acres. Has 10 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat; will build a house next spring. Lives with father. Received implements from government. Has ponies, cows. Supports three persons. Twenty-one years old. He says:

"I want a title to my claim, that I may have a home."

44. *Wah-ge-a-sha, Luke Cox*.—Full blood. Has a claim. Broke land last year; will build a house next spring. Lives with his father. Received implements from government. Has ponies, cows. Supports three persons; nineteen years old. He says:

"I would like to have a title to my land that it might be my own, and I could always live there."

(Another young man whose name it did not seem best to refuse.)

45. *Ega-hun-ga-sha, David Wells*.—Full blood. Has a claim. Father broke land five years ago; has 10 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat, corn, potatoes, vegetables, melons. Father built dug-out two years ago. Received implements from government. Has pony. Supports three persons; eighteen years old. Father's certificate taken when land was transferred to the Winnebagoes. Father died this year, after a lingering illness; mother nearly blind. A little sister depending on him. He says:

"I want to get a title to my father's claim, so that I can make a home and take care of my mother and little sister."

46. *Gah-e-bazhe, Walter Morris*.—Full blood. Has a claim. Broke 5 acres four years ago. Has 10 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat and corn. Will build a house next spring; lives with father. Received implements from government. Has ponies, cow. Supports three persons. Twenty-six years old. He says:

"I want a title to my claim, so that I can have a home that is my own."

47. *Ta-hoo-tom-be, Charles Robinson*.—Full blood. Has a claim. Broke land three years ago. Has 15 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat and corn. Will build a house on his claim; lives with father. Has pony. Supports three persons. Twenty-eight years old. He says:

"I want to get a title to my claim, that the land may be mine."

48. *Thos. McCauley*.—Full blood. Has a claim. Has 30 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, melons. Planted apple and cherry trees. Built frame house three years ago; bought the materials. Received implements from government. Has American horses, cost \$250—cows, pigs, chickens. Supports five persons. About thirty-three years old. He learned carpenter's trade at agency seven years ago; is now the head carpenter. He says:

"We ought to have titles to our lands. * * * We were born here. We ought to stay here. * * * I have heard there are some people who would try to move us away. * * * We did move away from Ohio. We kept on moving to the north and we have got enough of moving. * * * There are some people who try to make money in this world. They try to kill the Indians by moving them away to some bad place where they can't get along. If we are moved away we shall die poor. When the last day comes we shall see those men who tried to kill the Indians, and that is the time those fellows will see what they have done, and they will feel bad. I hope God will help us!"

49. *En-labee, George Miller*.—Full blood. Has a claim. Broke 8 acres five years ago. Has 20 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple trees; lives with father. Received implements from government. Has ponies. Supports three persons. Twenty-six years old. He says:

"I would like to receive a title to the land which I have worked."

50. *David Stabler*.—Full blood. Has a claim. Broke land this year. Built a house last fall. Has pony, cow, and calf. Supports four persons. About twenty-seven years old. Has worked at his trade, and for his father on his farm. Learned the carpenter trade; is now assistant carpenter. He says:

"I wish a title to my claim, that I may have a secure home for myself."

51. *Nebraska*.—Full blood. Has a claim. Father broke land eight years ago. Has 25 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted apple and cherry trees. Frame house. Father built and paid for it. Outbuildings. Received implements from government. Has horses, pony, cows, pigs, chickens. Supports eleven persons. Twenty-four years old. Father died a year ago. He is eldest son, and cares for family. He says:

"I want a title to my father's land where I have worked, and where I have always lived. The last year has been a bad one. The crops failed, and I have been sick. I shall feel easier and work with more heart when I have a title to the land."

52. *Frank Saunsooi*.—One-quarter French. Has a claim. Broke 7½ acres three years ago. Has 7½ acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises wheat, corn. Received implements from the government. Has American horse and pony. Supports three persons. Twenty-five years old. He works his father's land. Is the farmer at the government school. Has charge of garden and crops. He says:

"I want a title to my land that I may make a home. I want to feel sure that my children can have a home. I can improve my land more when I have a better team. I want to have the law here that the Indians may advance. I have to work over 60 acres."

53. *Anstee White*.—Full blood. Has a claim. Broke 5 acres seven years ago. Has 20 acres under cultivation, not including hay lands. Raises corn, wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Planted fruit trees. Built log house; outbuildings. Received implements from government. Has ponies, cows, pigs, chickens. Supports six persons. About thirty-three years old. He is assistant government farmer. He says:

"I want a title to my land, so that no one can take it away from me. I want it secure to my children. I have cultivated my land to make it my home, and I want my children to have it after me. I did think the land was mine, but now I am convinced the land is not my own. I want a title, so that I may never have to leave the land. I want law. I want it to be here just the same as it is among the white people. I can't go back to the old ways. If I had a good span of horses, no white man should beat me at working on a farm."

APPENDIX.

1.—Remarks of *Kah-a-num-ba*. (Two Crows.)

It is now about six years since the Poncas were removed to the Indian Territory, and ever since that time we have been wanting titles to our lands. We have been afraid that one day we should be taken from our lands, as the Poncas were. We want titles to our lands, so that we can hold our farms and stay on them. For this reason we have asked the government to give us titles. White men have told us that if we only "occupy" the land we will surely be moved, as were the Poncas. Our agent, some years ago, Mr. Vorr, helped us. He told us to go to work, and he would write to Washington and ask that titles be given to us. When I was in Washington last summer, I told the department that we wanted titles; that we were worried about our lands. I was told that titles should be given us, and that it should be so fixed that no one could sell his land for 25 years, and that this regulation should be so made that no one could break it. If this can be done, and we can have titles, we will work harder than we have done, for we will not be worried. There are some Omahas who have not sense enough to see the good that titles to our lands will bring us. We ask the government to grant to each one who has worked, and who deserves it, a title to his land. We want titles, for now the land is not our own. We want it for our own, that we and our children may live and work here. There are some men who have not signed this petition. When the Omahas first went upon claims these men were then willing to ask for titles, but they have turned back because they could not have their own way and control the men who wished to go forward. We want to advance toward law. We look to the future and think of our children, and what will be best for them.

2.—Remarks of *Douba-moni*.

There was a time when I was like the old men who do not think, and are not troubled. When I was like them it seemed as though I should fall at every step I took. Since I began to think, and have joined the party to which the men belong who desire to become citizens, it seems as though I can stand up. The road our fathers walked in is gone; the game is all gone; the white people are all about us. There is no use in any Indian thinking of the old ways; he must now go to work as the white man does. We want titles to our lands that the land may be secure to our children. When we die we shall feel easy in our minds if we know the land will belong to our children, and that they will have the benefit of our work. There are some Omahas who do not yet care for titles. We desire the government to give titles to those who ask for them, and in this way let us apart from those who do not want to work, and let us go on and try to become like the white people. We are willing the others should do as they please, but we are not willing that they should keep us from

getting titles to our lands. Our children would suffer even a greater wrong than would befall us. Give us who ask titles to our lands. We have worked for them. We will continue to work and to go forward. We will show the white people that we mean what we say. I wish all the Indians were of one mind—that all of them though as we do who sign, but when we get our titles it will help them. If but a few men sign this petition, give to those few men titles to their farms. Help us! Do not let us be held back and our children be sufferers, because of the inaction of those who do not seem to care for the future.

17.—*Remarks of Um-pa-tun-ga (Big Elk).*

When we look at a person we are apt to know what that person is thinking of. All who look at me must know I am thinking of a title to my land, of becoming a citizen and being like the white people. I wish I could speak English, then I could tell you directly from my heart of the way in which I wish to go. I could talk to you of that way which is right. Wherever I am, or wherever I go, I think God will do what is best. I hope God will help me in my efforts to be like the white men, and that a long as I live he will help me to do right, and that he will put it in the hearts of all good men in Washington to help us at this time. We want titles to our lands. We are thinking of little else. We shall think of little else until we get our titles. We are afraid of losing our land. When we receive titles to our farms then we shall be treated as men. When we get our titles, as long as we live, we will always remember those who have helped us in this thing. God tells us to love one another. I beg all men who have good hearts to help us in this request.

23.—*Remarks of Joseph Laflesche.*

FRIENDS: I wish to speak to you of some of our troubles. First, I will tell you of some things in the past. I was born in this country, in Nebraska, and I have always lived among the Indians. There was a time when I used to look only at the Indian and think they were the only people. The Indians must have been long in this country before the white man came here. I do not know how the Indians got their seed, but they had corn and squash and beans, when I was young. In the spring they would take their seed and farm their one or two acres. There were no idlers, all worked in the spring. Those who had no hoes worked with pieces of sticks. When they got their seed in they went on the hunt. They had nothing to worry them; all they thought of was their little garden they had left behind. In the middle of the summer they came back with the skins for their tent-cloths, the meat for their food and the skins for their clothing. They made use of all animals. When they got home they gathered their corn, dried it, buried a part of it, and taking enough to serve them, started out on the winter hunt to get furs. Then it was I used to see white men, those who were going around buying furs. Sometimes for two or three years I would not see any white men. At that time the country was empty, only animals were to be seen. Then after a while the white men came, just as the black-birds do, and spread over the country. Some settled down, others scattered over the land. The Indians never thought that any such thing could ever be. It matters not where one looks now, one sees white people. These things I have been speaking about are in the past, and are all gone. We Indians see you now, and want to take our steps your way. We turn ourselves toward you that you may help us. It seems as though the government pushes us back. It makes us think that the government regards us as unfit to be as white men. The white man looks into the future and sees what is good. That is what the Indian is doing. He looks into the future and sees his only chance is to become as the white man. When a person lives in a place a long time he loves the place. We love our lands and want titles for them. When one has anything he likes to feel it is his own and belongs to no one else; so we want titles, then we can leave our land to our children. You know, and so do we, that some of us will not live very long; we will soon be gone into the other world. We ask for titles for our children's sakes. For some years we have been trying to get titles, but we have never heard from the government. A little while ago I heard what the President said in his message, and it seemed as though he was giving me a cup of cold water when I was very thirsty. We are not strong enough to help ourselves in this matter, so we ask you to help us. In the past we only lived on the animals. We see that it is from the ground that you get all that you possess. The reason you do not look upon us as men, is because we have no law, because we are not citizens. We are strangers in the land where we were born. We want the law, that we may be regarded as men. When we are in trouble we want to have courts to appeal to. The law will teach wrong-doers. It will prevent trouble, as well as punish those who commit offenses. We know that in asking for titles we are asking for that which will bring responsibility. We are ready to accept it, and to strive to fulfill its requirements. It seems as though in the past the government had not listened to the words of the Indians. We know our own needs, and now we speak to you directly.