

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TO THE

Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, in relation to a removal of Kickapoo Indians.

JANUARY 28, 1878.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., January 23, 1878.

SIR: By the act of June 22, 1874, entitled "An act making appropriation for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes, for the year ending June 30, 1875, and for other purposes," there was set apart (Stat. at L., vol. 18, p. 157), "For this amount or so much thereof as may be necessary, to complete the removal of the remaining Kickapoo and other American Indian tribes roving on the borders of Texas and Mexico, to reservations within the Indian Territory, not to exceed sixty-five thousand dollars."

A portion of the Kickapoos have been gathered together by commissioners appointed for that purpose by the department and transported to the Indian Territory, where they now are, some 317 in number. A portion of the Kickapoos refused to leave Mexico, where they had made new homes; and, as a promise was made by the Mexican authorities to locate them on a reservation at such a distance from the border-line as to prevent, with the supervision that should be exercised, any further disturbance from them by raids or otherwise, all further proceedings under the act noted were stopped.

I am now in receipt of two letters from the honorable the Secretary of War, dated, respectively, the 27th November last and 14th instant, copies of which, together with the inclosures noted therein, are respectfully presented for your consideration.

These letters convey the information that José Galiendo, a Kickapoo chief located in the State of Chihuahua, in Mexico, desires, with a number of his band, to come to the United States and go upon a reservation. This seems to offer a solution of the difficulty which obstructed former action, and points the way to a settlement of the border difficulties which have so long annoyed the inhabitants of that portion of our domain.

It will be seen from the inclosed copy of a report, dated the 14th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to whom the subject

was referred for an expression of his views, that there remained unexpended of the amount appropriated for the removal of these stray bands, the sum of \$21,495.80, which has been, in accordance with law, covered into the Treasury. He recommends that Congress be requested to reappropriate said balance of \$21,495.80, with authority to use the same for the purpose and under the same restrictions specified in the original appropriation of \$65,000.

The recommendation of the Commissioner has the approval of this department, and the subject is presented for the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. SCHURZ,
Secretary.

Hon. WILLIAM B. ALLISON,
Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, November 27, 1877.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a dispatch from General Ord, reporting a statement of F. Paschal, of Chihuahua, Mexico, to the effect that chief José Galindo and fifty-five of his tribe of Kickapoos desire to go on a United States reservation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. McCRARY,
Secretary of War.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Telegram.]

CHICAGO, ILL., *November 21, 1877.*
(Received Washington 1 p. m.)

General E. D. TOWNSEND,
Washington, D. C.:

General Ord sends me the following telegram, which I transmit for the information of the General of the Army, and action of the Interior Department.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General.

“SAN ANTONIO, *November 20.*

“General DRUM, *Chicago:*

“The following just received from F. Paschal, Chihuahua, Mexico, under date of sixth instant, and is forwarded for information of Adjutant-General of the Army:

““Chief José Galindo, of the Kickapoo Indians in this State, requested me to make known his desire to go on the reservation. He is at present in this place with fifty-five of his tribe, which he says he will take with him.”

“Mr. Paschal is, I believe, a reliable man.

“ORD,
“*Brigadier-General.*”

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, January 14, 1878.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for your information a copy of a dispatch from General Ord, who asks if he can employ a Mr. Williams, formerly in service of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to bring in the Kickapoo or other raiding Indians, from Mexico; also a copy of the remarks of General Sherman, to which your attention is respectfully invited, and a copy of a letter from the Department of State.

I beg to request an expression of your views upon this subject.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. MCCRARY,
Secretary of War.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Telegram.]

CHICAGO, December 31. (Received 4.45 p. m.)

To General E. D. TOWNSEND, Washington, D. C.:

The following telegram addressed to you is respectfully forwarded.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General.

"SAN ANTONIO, TEX., December 31.]

"ADJUTANT-GENERAL UNITED STATES ARMY :

"Can I employ a Mr. Williams, formerly in service of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to go to Chihuahua as special agent to arrange for bringing in the Kickapoo or other raiding Indians? Properly, it is business of the Indian Bureau, but they decline action, and some of the Indians are desirous of coming over, who, if not moved now, will probably join raiders.

"E. O. C. ORD,
"Brigadier-General."

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., January 7, 1878.

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War.

The Kickapoos were located in Texas prior to the civil war. During the war the Confederate authorities became embroiled with them, and had several fights, which resulted in the remnant escaping into Mexico as a place of refuge.

Some five years ago a portion of the Kickapoos asked the privilege of coming back, and Mr. Williams, formerly an officer of the United States Army, but who went into the Confederate service, acted as the agent to conduct them to their new reservation in the Indian country. This new application, I infer, applies to the remnant of the tribe which preferred then to remain in Mexico. I doubt if it be to the interest of the United States to increase the number of dependent Indians, but if the Interior Department choose to meet this application favorably, Mr. Williams is as good an agent as can be found.

The War Department has no interest whatever in the fate of these Indians unless they are regarded as more troublesome as raiders from Mexico than as wards.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 8, 1878.

SIR: Your letter of the 5th instant has been received. It is accompanied by a dispatch from General Ord, asking if he may employ a Mr. Williams as a special agent to visit Chihuahua to make arrangements for the return to the United States, where they belong, of certain Kickapoo Indians, who are supposed now to be inhabitants of Mexico.

In reply I have to inform you that I am aware of no objection to the employment of Mr. Williams for the purpose referred to, if the Department of War or of the Interior has at its disposal a fund from which his compensation and expenses may be paid. There is no appropriation subject to the control of this department, to which they would be a proper charge.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WM. M. EVARTS.

Hon. GEORGE W. McCURRY,
Secretary of War.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 14, 1878.

SIR: In forwarding the inclosed communication of the 8th of December last from General E. O. C. Ord, respecting the desire of chief José Galindo and some seventy or more Kickapoo Indians near Chihuahua, Mexico, to come to the United States and settle upon a reservation, believing that the return to the United States of Indians who had been raiding into Texas would be a great advantage, conducing to peace; and in returning War Department letter of the 27th of November last, on the same subject, I have the honor to state that there are no funds at the disposal of the department, applicable for the payment of such a removal; that of the appropriation of \$65,000 to complete the removal of the remaining Kickapoo and other American Indian tribes roving on the borders of Texas and Mexico to reservations within the Indian Territory, provided in the Indian appropriation act of June 22, 1874 (18 Stat. at L., p. 157), there has been covered into the Treasury an unexpended balance of \$21,495.80.

Maj. Thomas G. Williams, whom General Ord recommends as a suitable person to effect such removal, has heretofore been employed in this service, and there are now 317 Mexican Kickapoos under the jurisdiction of the Sac and Fox agency in Indian Territory who were removed thither by him and other commissioners.

To enable the department to put into practical operation the views therein expressed by General Ord, I respectfully recommend that Congress be requested to reappropriate said balance of \$21,495.80, with authority to use the same for the purposes and under the restrictions specified in the original appropriation of \$65,000.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. A. HAYT, *Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 8, 1877.*

SIR: W. T. Paschal, a reliable gentleman, reported a few weeks since from Chihuahua, Mexico, the desire of José Galendo and some seventy or more Kickapoos near that city to come to the United States and live on a reservation. As any return of Indians who have been raiding into Texas to the United States would be a great advantage, conducting to peace, I recommend Major Williams, who has already successfully conducted such a removal, be employed to bring in the Kickapoos I refer to.

I am, sir, respectfully, &c.,

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier-General, United States Army.

Hon. CARL SCHURZ,
Secretary of the Interior.

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