

PETITION  
OF  
THOMAS J. GALBRAITH.

AGENT OF THE  
SIOUX INDIANS OF MINNESOTA,

PRAYING

*To be relieved from all responsibility as such Indian agent for property destroyed by the Sioux Indians on the 18th of August, 1862, and that his accounts may be settled upon the principles of equity.*

[To accompany joint resolution S. No. 67.]

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APRIL 14, 1864.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

JUNE 16, 1864.—Ordered to be printed.

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

The petition of Thomas J. Galbraith, of the State of Minnesota, respectfully represents: That your petitioner has been the agent of the Sioux Indians of Minnesota since the first day of June, 1861, duly appointed and qualified as such. That, as such agent, your petitioner had in his charge large quantities of Indian trust property, consisting, *inter alia*, of houses, mills, goods, wares, and merchandise, Indian supplies, tools, implements, lumber, wood, saw-logs, horses, oxen, cows, calves, sheep, wagons, harness, &c., for the safe-keeping of which he is held accountable by the government of the United States. That, as such agent, your petitioner had to disburse large sums of money for agricultural, civilization, and educational purposes, for the use and benefit of said Indians, in fulfilment of treaty stipulations with them. That he had to employ and pay mechanics, laborers, and material-men to perform the work necessary to be done to carry on the business of said agency, and to furnish the supplies and materials needed; and that, for the purchase of these supplies and materials, contracts had to be made and executed. That the various interests of the agency and expenditure of the Indian trust fund, for so many purposes, made it necessary to keep a regular set of account books, and to take large numbers of vouchers for money and property expended. That the amount of money thus disbursed by your petitioner amounted, annually, to the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or thereabouts. That all of said books, vouchers, contracts, and papers, and memoranda connected therewith, relating thereto, and explanatory thereof, were kept in the office of the Sioux agency at Yellow Medi-

cine or Pajutazee, on the reservation of the Upper Sioux Indians of Minnesota. That on the 18th day of August, A. D. 1862, the said Indians rebelled against the authority of the United States, and with force and arms, and in large numbers, to wit, the number of six hundred warriors, or thereabouts, broke out into a malicious and cruel raid or massacre, and killed, took captive, or drove all the citizens of the United States from the reservations of said Indians, and took possession of all the agency buildings, warehouses, offices, and mills, rifled them of their contents and committed most of them to the flames. That said Indians took and carried away or destroyed all of the books and papers aforesaid, and very nearly all of the trust property then upon said reservations. That said books and papers *directly* covered the expenditure of all of the second quarter and a greater portion of the third quarter of the said year, 1862, and *incidentally* referred to, and were explanatory of all the business transactions of the agency. That, owing to the loss and destruction of said books, papers, and property, your petitioner has found it impossible to comply with the laws of the United States in the settlement of his accounts. That he has diligently tried to ascertain the condition of the affairs of said agency, and has submitted the result of his efforts in this behalf to the proper department of the government, and asks, very respectfully, of your honorable bodies, such relief as the justice and equity of his case seems to call for. And your petitioner will ever pray, &c.

Very respectfully, &c.,

THOMAS J. GALBRAITH.