

LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TO THE

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,

IN RELATION TO

*The request of the Cherokee Nation in regard to the application of funds due or that may accrue to that nation from the sale of certain lands.*

DECEMBER 17, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., December 17, 1872.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report dated the 14th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, upon the subject of a communication to him from the principal chief and delegates of the Cherokee Nation—copy also inclosed dated the 12th instant—in which they ask for a different application of a portion of the funds due or that may accrue to the nation from the sale of their lands by the United States, than is provided by the twenty-third article of the treaty with the Cherokee Indians of July 19, 1866, (Stats., vol. 14, p. 805.)

The request of the Cherokees is fully set forth in their letter and that of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, herewith presented; and concurring with that officer in the opinion that the interests of the Cherokees, as a nation, and their future prosperity, will be promoted by the arrangement proposed, I commend the subject to the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

Hon. JAMES HARLAN,  
*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,  
Senate of the United States.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., December 14, 1872.*

SIR: By the 23d article of the treaty with the Cherokee Indians of July 19, 1866, (Stats., vol. 14, p. 805,) it is provided that all funds due the

nation, or that may hereafter accrue from the sale of their lands by the United States, shall be paid semi-annually on the order of the Cherokee Nation, and to be applied as follows: Thirty-five per cent. for the support of common schools and for educational purposes generally; 15 per cent. for the orphan fund, and 50 per cent. for general purposes, including reasonable salaries of district officers.

I have now the honor to present a copy of a communication from the principal chief and delegates of the Cherokee Nation, dated "Washington, D. C., December 12, 1872," in which they ask for a different application of a portion of the funds above referred to, as follows:

1st. The sum of \$100,000 from the proceeds of land sold to the Osages to be set apart, and \$80,000 thereof to be invested as part of the orphan fund, and \$20,000 to be expended for buildings and other improvements deemed necessary for the benefit of the institution for the orphans.

2d. The sum of \$100,000 from the proceeds of the strip of land in Kansas, to be set apart for an asylum for the insane, deaf and dumb, blind and indigent persons of the Cherokee Nation; \$75,000 of said amount to be invested as a separate fund, and its interest semi-annually applied to the support of said institution; the remaining \$25,000 to be expended for its establishment.

3d. The sum of \$75,000 from the proceeds of the sale of lands to the Great and Little Osages, to be expended for the establishment of a literary institution for the education of indigent persons of said nation, under such rules and regulations as the national council of the Cherokees may prescribe.

It is suggested by the principal chief and the Cherokee delegation that a clause be inserted in the Indian appropriation act for next fiscal year, authorizing the disposal of \$275,000 of the funds referred to in the 23d article of the treaty of 1866, in the manner herein designated, the balance of said fund to be applied exclusively for the purposes contemplated by the treaty.

Believing, as I do, that the interest of the Cherokees as a nation, and the future welfare and prosperity of the masses of their people will be materially promoted by the proposed arrangement, I respectfully request that the matter be submitted to Congress for its favorable consideration and action.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,  
*Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.,  
December 12, 1872.

SIR: The Cherokee national legislature at its recent session, in its instructions to us, provided for a different application of a portion of the funds arising under the acts of Congress for the sale of certain lands to the Great and Little Osage Nation, and of our strip in Kansas. The following are the propositions:

1st. That the sum of \$100,000 be set apart from the proceeds of land sold to the Osages; \$80,000 of the same to be invested as part of the orphan fund, and \$20,000 to be expended for buildings and other improvements as may be necessary for the institution, under such regulations as the council of the Cherokee Nation may direct.

2d. That the sum of \$100,000 be set apart for an institution, in the

Cherokee Nation, for the blind, insane, deaf and dumb, indigent persons of the Cherokee Nation; \$75,000 of this amount to be invested as a separate fund, and its interest semi-annually applied to its support, and that the sum of \$25,000 be expended to establish the institution under such rules and regulations as the Cherokee national council may direct, and that the sum of \$100,000 be taken from the proceeds of the sale of the strip of land in Kansas.

3d. That there be set apart from the proceeds of the sale of land to the Great and Little Osages, the sum of \$75,000, to be expended for the establishment of a literary institution for the education of indigent persons of the Cherokee Nation, under such rules and regulations as the national council of the Cherokee Nation may prescribe.

The entire amount thus to be invested and applied is \$275,000. All remaining amounts of the two funds, or the moneys arising from the sale of the two tracts of land referred to, to be invested as prescribed in article 23 of the treaty of 1866. The diversions to which this communication is devoted are directed by our national legislature, and are, we believe, wise and just, and will commend themselves to your judgment.

What we ask of you is that you unite with the Secretary in urging and recommending an amendment to the Indian appropriation bill that will authorize this change of direction of this part of our funds, as this mode seems more easy of access than any amended treaty.

We desire to remain, with respect, your obedient servants,

WILL. P. ROSS,  
*Principal Chief.*

W. P. ADAIR,  
J. VANN,  
*Cherokee Delegation.*

HON. FRANCIS WALKER,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs.*