

LETTER
FROM THE
ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

Copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, relative to a survey of the line dividing the Creek ceded lands from the Creek reservation, and recommending legislation to authorize negotiations with the Creek Indians for the cession of a portion of their reservation occupied by friendly Indians.

DECEMBER 18, 1872.—Ordered to be printed, to accompany bill S. 1274.

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

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication, dated the 7th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, inviting the attention of this Department to a recent survey of the line dividing the Creek ceded lands, upon which the Sac and Fox and the Seminole Indians have reservations, from the Creek reservation, as provided for by the eighth article of the treaty with the Creeks of 14th June, 1866, (Stats., vol. 14, p. 785.)

An examination of the field-notes and plats of said survey, which has been approved, discloses the fact that the line above referred to divides the reservations of the Seminoles and the Sacs and Foxes, leaving extensive improvements east of said line, and, consequently, within the Creek country.

In view of the facts stated, it is recommended that legislation be had authorizing negotiations with the Creek Indians for the purchase of that portion of the reservations of the Seminoles and Sacs and Foxes thrown, by the survey, into the Creek reserve.

I have therefore prepared, and herewith transmit, a draught of an act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate with the Creek Indians for the cession of a portion of their reservation occupied by friendly Indians, and respectfully commend it to the favorable consideration of Congress, to the end that the Government may be enabled to execute the existing treaty stipulations with the Indians interested.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN

Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 7, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to invite the attention of the Department to the following, viz:

By the third article of the treaty concluded with the Creek Indians June 14, 1866, (U. S. Stats. at Large, vol. 14, p. 785,) said Indians cede to the United States for the settlement of friendly Indians and freedmen the west half of their entire domain, to be divided by a line running north and south.

In consideration of the cession made by the third article of the treaty concluded with the Seminole Indians March 21, 1866, (U. S. Stats. at Large, vol. 14, p. 755,) the United States, by said article, granted to said Indians, out of the Creek ceded lands, a reservation containing 200,000 acres.

In consideration of the improvements upon the reservation of the Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi tribe of Indians, ceded by the first article of the treaty concluded with said Indians February 18, 1867, (U. S. Stats. at Large, vol. 15, p. 495,) the United States, by the sixth article of said treaty, granted to these Indians a reservation out of the Creek ceded lands, containing about 750 square miles.

The Seminoles and the Sacs and Foxes have settled upon their respective reservations and have made improvement thereon, not expecting to be disturbed by the survey of the line dividing the Creek ceded lands from the Creek reservation, as provided for by the eighth article of the Creek treaty of 1866, hereinbefore referred to. However, the survey has subsequently been completed, and approved by the honorable Secretary of the Interior, under date of the 5th of February last. Upon an examination of the plats and field-notes of said survey, it is found that the dividing line cuts through a portion of the reservations above referred to for the use of the Seminole and Sac and Fox Indians, leaving extensive improvements east of said line, and consequently within the Creek country.

In view of the foregoing I respectfully recommend that the matter be laid before Congress, with the request for legislation authorizing the Department to negotiate with the Creek Indians for the purchase of the lands thus thrown into the Creek reserve, to the end that the tribes who have settled down in good faith, and entered into agricultural pursuits, may not be deprived of the fruits of their industry through no fault of theirs, and, further, that the Government may be enabled thereby to carry out existing treaty-stipulations with the Indians interested.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.