

L E T T E R

FROM

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,

IN RELATION TO

The expenditure of \$100,000 for the support of the Great and Little Osage Indians.

MAY 25, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed, to accompany bill S. 847.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., May 19, 1874.

SIR: Allow me to invite the attention of your committee to the condition and necessities of the Osage Indians.

This tribe has sold to the Government a large tract of land in Kansas, from which will be realized a sum amounting from \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000, after paying the purchase-money for their present reservation in the Indian Territory. So large a sum is likely to become a peril rather than a benefit to these Indians, and the question for the Government to consider will be how to convey this amount to them without doing them damage.

The tribe is now in a position to establish their new reservation, and is in a fair way toward civilization. They need money now for improvements on their farms, and for farming-implements, stock, seed, &c., more than they are likely to need at any future time in their history.

Only the sum of \$720,749 is now in the Treasury, upon which interest is paid to the tribe. This interest is insufficient to meet the requirements for civilization during the ensuing year, and in my judgment it will be greatly to the advantage of the Osages if \$100,000 of the proceeds of their lands can be made available for present uses, this amount to be re-imbursed from the interest hereafter to become due on the said proceeds.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW. P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

Hon. W. A. BUCKINGHAM,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.