

LETTER  
FROM THE  
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,  
TO THE  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
IN RELATION TO

*The removal of the Pawnee Indians from the State of Nebraska to the Indian Territory, and the sale of their lands in said State.*

JANUARY 15, 1875.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed. To accompany bill S. 1142.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., December 14, 1874.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report dated the 7th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in relation to the removal of the Pawnee tribe of Indians from the State of Nebraska to the Indian Territory, together with a draught of a bill providing for the sale of the Pawnee Indian lands in said State, and for an appropriation by Congress of three hundred thousand dollars for the purchase of a new reservation in the Indian Territory, and establishing them thereon; the amount appropriated to be re-imbursed from the proceeds of the sale of their lands in Nebraska.

I commend the subject to the favorable consideration of Congress.  
Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,  
*Secretary.*

Hon. WILLIAM A. BUCKINGHAM,  
*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, U. S. Senate.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., December 7, 1874.*

SIR: An act of Congress approved June 10, 1872, made provision for the survey and sale—with the consent of the Indians—of a portion of the Pawnee Indian reservation, in the State of Nebraska, not exceeding 50,000 acres, to be taken from that part of said reservation lying south of Loup Fork.

The Pawnees in open council consented to this sale, and the portion

of their reservation mentioned has been surveyed and appraised, though not yet offered for sale.

During the autumn of 1873, about thirty lodges of Pawnees visited the Wichita agency, in Indian Territory, and, meeting with a friendly reception, remained there, and through them an invitation was extended by the Indians of that locality to the entire tribe to remove to the Indian Territory. This invitation, in connection with the following reports given by their brethren of the character of the country, and the fact that their crops have been destroyed by grasshoppers, has impressed the Pawnees with a desire to remove to and make their future home in the Indian Territory.

Finally, their necessities became so great that many of them determined to leave their reservation and remove south, without authority from the Department, and on the 9th of September, Superintendent White telegraphed this office that about one-fourth of the tribe had, in open council, defied the authority of the agent to compel them to remain on their reserve, and declared their intention to leave in a body.

September 22, 1874, Superintendent White was advised that if the Pawnees in open council should ask that their present reservation be sold and another reservation be set apart for them in the Indian Territory, the Department would take the necessary steps for carrying out their wishes, and ask that their lands be brought into market through congressional legislation, from the proceeds of which a new reserve in the Indian Territory could be purchased for them, and necessary improvements, stock, and farming implements paid for.

Under date of October 9, 1874, Superintendent White transmitted to this Office minutes of the proceedings of a council of the tribe, held on the day previous, in which it was unanimously requested that they be allowed to remove to Indian Territory, and that their present reservation be disposed of for their benefit.

On the 14th of the same month, Superintendent White was advised that the action of the Indians met with the approval of this Office, and that steps would be taken to procure the necessary congressional legislation to bring their lands into market as soon as practicable, and also to make arrangements for the selection of a suitable reservation in Indian Territory for their future home.

With these purposes in view, I have the honor to submit herewith, for transmission to Congress, with recommendation for early and favorable action, a draught of a bill providing for the disposition of the entire reserve of the Pawnees in Nebraska, and the appropriation by Congress of \$300,000 for the purchase of a new reservation for them in Indian Territory, establishing them thereon and encouraging them in civilization; such amount, however, to be reimbursed from the proceeds of sale of their lands in Nebraska.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.